





The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 13 January 1972
Eleventh Year - No. 509 - By air

C 20725 C

Europe must stand back from but not lose sight of America



America will not desert us. The terrible future without our powerful ally, which the Opposition repeatedly predicts will be the outcome of the Ostpolitik will not come. Scare stories have been debunked.

President Nixon told Chancellor Brandt once again what was clear enough already when they met in Florida: America cannot afford to withdraw completely from continental Europe. This is not a question of love, it is matter of America's own interests.

For the United States Europe is an essential strategic military area and is almost as important from the economic point of view. And Europe needs the United States as a counterweight against the other world power.

This country's moves for detente in particular can only be successful if the balance of power of the two giants who have a foot in Europe is carefully maintained.

Of course President Nixon will continue to try throwing ballast overboard and to trim down his country's commitments abroad. In addition the United States has an election year coming up.

Our transatlantic partner's policies can in an election year continue by leaps and bounds or stagnate completely, depending on whatever is considered the greatest expedient for attracting the electorate.

But one of the essentials that can be taken as read in advance is a strong common interest uniting Americans and Europeans to work together in close co-operation, at least in Europe itself, in order to make peace more secure.

America's attempts to drop a bombshell on the European Economic Community with exaggerated demands, especially with regard to the Community's agricultural policy, and bomb the Six back into a pre-European Stone Age have not yet been completely and finally warded off.

This shows quite clearly that the relationship between the North Atlantic countries cannot only be measured by the yardstick of the resiliance of transatlantic solidarity or the relaxation of tension between governments and statesmen.

And in future the United States will have to find a way to live with the new Europe of ten countries. On this score peace is far from secured. It is difficult to tackle this problem yet, since nobody knows how strong or how weak this enlarged Europe will be, and how swiftly it will be able to discover and develop its own personality.

A European summit conference planned for July or August will, according to the talks between President Richard Nixon and Chancellor Willy Brandt, "pay heed to the new dimensions".

In fact taking stock of these new dimensions will keep government leaders busy for a long time dealing with many different aspects.

The whole situation is complicated by the fact that America is at one and the same time Europe's partner and Europe's rival and in the past few weeks it has made no bones about the fact that it feels this sense of rivalry most keenly.

When it is a question of money the Atlantic Ocean is like a frozen waste. Chancellor Brandt's intention to set up a liaison centre between the European Economic Community and the trading partner from across the water has only been propagated very timorously on account of the sensitivity of some Europeans. This liaison centre would guide future talks, that is to say any irritations that crop up in the future, along the right lines.

This suggestion is certainly better than doing nothing, but at the moment it does not look like producing anything more than controlled chaos in place of uncontrolled chaos when the arguments start.

Perhaps a limited conflict between Europe and the United States over a limited area would not be so damaging. War is no longer the father of all things. Fortunately we have got past the stage of gunboat diplomacy.

This has been replaced in modern politics by a ding-dong battle of words between two countries, a statement that is more cynical than it sounds.

It may be that the concept of Europe was invented by a few idealists. It got itself organised because a defeated Germany had to be kept under control. It may now be that the time has come for Europe to reorganise itself so that it can keep itself under control.

Furthermore if détente in Europe is really to be a lasting thing and to serve the people who live here rather than just bringing a few statesmen a few fleeting moments of glory, sooner or later the room for manoeuvre granted the East Bloc countries by their overlord must be increased.

But this is of course only conceivable if Western Europe agrees to keep a carefully respected distance from its big brother across the Atlantic.

In this respect the unpleasant side of the Europe-America relationship can perhaps be tied up with the utilitarian.

Hans-Herbert Gaebel

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 31 December 1971)

President Nixon welcoming Chancellor Willy Brandt at Key Biscayne on 29 December 1971 (Photo: dpa)

Sun shines on Nixon and Brandt's Florida summit

Sweetness and light surrounded the summit meeting between Chancellor Willy Brandt and US President Richard Nixon, and not just from the political point of view. Following the meeting of the Group of Ten in Washington there are now no longer any differences of opinion on trade and currency affairs to divide the United States and the Federal Republic.

So, Bonn Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Professor Karl Schiller and his American counterpart John Connally agreed that they would not need to accompany their respective heads of government to Key Biscayne, the hot and sunny coastal resort in Florida.

It was clear that both the American and West German delegation were pleased to state that the trade and currency problem was just on the periphery of their conference. This time they were able to talk in an atmosphere of relaxation and harmony in the truest sense of the word, unlike at the marathon meetings of the past few months.

The American government recognised long ago that the Federal Republic's actions during the currency crisis were exemplary. It also knows that the Federal Republic's free-trade attitude in the Common Market group is not excelled by the other five members.

Now that the Americans have achieved their main aim and corrected the relationship between other currencies and the dollar they can once again afford to take sides. And they are clearly on the side of the Federal Republic.

Unlike the French head of State Georges Pompidou, who managed to promote himself to the position of Common Market spokesman at his conference with Nixon in the Azores, Brandt took up the matter of forthcoming trade negotiations with the American President simply because these US-German talks were on the agenda.

The Council of Ministers' mandate for negotiations has been placed before the High Commission. Thus there is nothing more for EEC heads of government to do.

If Willy Brandt is right then the first phase of the negotiations, which will deal with short-term trade concessions to the United States, will not prove so difficult as has been generally assumed up till now.

"Since the Azores meeting," Brandt said, "nobody still believes there will be a (trade policy) confrontation."

As far as he is concerned the demands of the Americans to be allowed to slip "a little more citrus fruit, a little more grain and a little more tobacco" into the European Economic Community is basically an alibi for Nixon to present to a Congress that is bent on Protectionism.

If we understand Willy Brandt correctly he believes that a relatively swift completion of the initial phase of negotiations is possible, in which the Americans, too, will make some consessions, such as the removal of the American-Selling-Price-System. "Now it's just a question of the roundup."

The golden sunlight that bathed Florida as the talks went on may have made certain people forget that in the next twelve months the United States will be trying to push through its long-term trade

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■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Nixon's Peking visit will produce many side effects

President Richard Nixon's statement that he would be visiting Peking in February 1972 had some expected, but also some unexpected consequences. His intention to open up the door to China after twenty years of strict isolation from Peking was the sensation of 1971. The news came like a bombshell.

But soon after the astonished world had got used to the idea of Washington's change of direction and Red China's entry into the United Nations the first signs of concern were noted.

What will become of Asia if China overshadows the Pacific stage and America pulls out? What can Mao Tse-tung offer Richard Nixon in return? How will Moscow react to this initiative?

Around this discussion of America's new role in Asia the war between India and Pakistan flared up, partly brought on by the fundamental change of policy in Washington.

Suddenly America and China were together on the side of Pakistan and in opposition to the Soviet Union, which had thrown in its lot with India. There was a shift of fronts in the old eternal triangle of Washington-Moscow-Peking.

Two movements in international politics will give rise to changed alliances in the coming years.

* When the United States and the Soviet Union together with their partners in Europe have legally fixed the status quo they will then turn their attention to the Asian continent and attempt to mark out their spheres of influence among themselves and in competition with each other. In this of course China's interests will have to be taken into consideration.

When America redefines its position it will have to ask itself the question: withdrawal to which frontier? And in this respect it has not yet been decided what role Japan might play as a possible fourth major power.

* Even if the triangle of world powers should, with the inclusion of Western Europe and Japan, be extended and become a pentagon international politics in the near future will be decided on the the soil of Asia in the main.

The American-Chinese ping-pong matches have wakened the Soviet Union, which is not in a good mood about it. As in the Middle East, the other sphere of conflict between the major powers, Moscow has now set foot in the Asian turmoil. In the Middle East it was Egypt, in Asia it was India.

There are signs that the emphasis of Soviet foreign involvement might shift from the Arab to the Asian world. The Asian era begins with Richard Nixon's striding up to the Gate of Heavenly Peace in Peking.

New political lines are becoming clear, at the outset simply in outline form. Washington is pursuing a policy of national egoism in a world that has become multi-polar, without lapsing into any other form of isolationnism.

Nixon informed his allies of his change of tune on China when it was a *fait accompli* – he did not hold consultations with them first. And gradually he is freeing America, without much fuss and bother, from the longstanding two-Chinas policy.

The solution of the problem of Taiwan, it is now being said, is something that must be settled by the Chinese peoples. In connection with this there is automatically realignment of the relationship between the United States and its protégés. These are gaining new diplomatic room for manoeuvre, but there is a great deal of confusion and uncertainty.

In 1949 America wailed: "We've lost China!" This was followed by the roll-back policy and then the strategy of containment. Today the American President exclaims: "No peace without China!" But there is still a long way to go along the freedom road in Asia.

In answer to President Nixon's Christmas message about peace in our hearts James Reston quoted Abraham Lincoln: "We have no belief – we are caught up in sheer doubt."

Dietrich Strothmann

(Die Zeit, 31 December 1971)

Florida summit

Continued from page 1

policy ideas, even if not at its accustomed pace.

These include the abolition of the EEC agriculture system and prevention of the "exclusion" of the United States from an extended Common Market with its zones of preference.

The Bonn government's view, as Brandt stressed again to journalists. and that of the other EEC members is that the Americans must exercise restraint until the Europeans have of their own accord introduced corrective measures even though this may take a considerable amount of time.

Then the question must be asked whether the United States can and will wait so long. America can if its economic boom planned for 1972 goes according to schedule. It cannot if the heavyweight US economic colossus fails to pick up speed as planned. If this happens then Europe must expect renewed pressure from the United States.

The summit meeting between President Nixon and Chancellor Brandt looks more like a holiday meeting with the two men unwinding at a sunspot. There are few clouds of currency and trade worries to darken the horizon. The meeting has taken place in the calm following the currency crisis storm.

But in this year the economic tug-of-war between the United States and the EEC will be in the headlines again. And this battle, which is likely to bring more misunderstandings with it, will drag the Federal Republic into the fray.

Hartwig Meyer

(Die Welt, 31 December 1971)

Bonn welcomes reconciliation with Arab League States

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The Arab League, set up in 1945 [to] coordinate the policies of its memb[er] States, has never got further than cons[ul]tations among governments of memb[er] States. These members have always [ad]hered only partially to joint decisi[ons] taken by the League, even where [at]titudes towards Israel were concerned.

And when the Federal Republic [and] the League broke off diplomatic re[la]tions, with the assumption of diploma[tic] relations between Bonn and Jerusale[m] normal relationships still applied betw[een] this country and a number of the Ar[ab] League States.

Other Arab countries later decided [to] send ambassadors to Bonn, and n[ow] Algeria and the Sudan have decided [to] join their ranks.

If the Arab League now decides [to] revoke the recommendation of 19[65] formally this will give Egypt and Sa[udi] Arabia an impetus to normalise th[eir] relationship with West Germany.

For this country's politicians such [a] development can be nothing but welco[me] and Bonn is doing its best to bring ab[out] such reconciliation by making no obj[ec]tions to the assumption of diplom[atic] relations between other States and E[ast] Berlin.

It is something that would su[rely] flummox an Arab or anyone else if St[ate] secretaries from West and East Germ[any] held negotiations and yet such an obj[ec]tion were still raised by Bonn.

Bonn is not interested in taking side[s in] the Arab-Israel conflict and adding [yet] another interpretation to the many so[] given to the 1967 UN resolution.

In addition the efforts being made [to] unite all Arabs are merely an inte[rnal] affair as far as the Federal Republi[c is] concerned. This movement is a far [cry] from the conditions prevailing in [the] nineteenth century when Europe fin[ally] got around to the belated formatio[n of] nation States.

Up till now most efforts to unite [the] Arab world have not been blessed [with] success. Once again the initiative has [been] taken, but are Egypt, Syria and Li[bya] likely to succeed? This country's po[liticians] have been subject to far different [ex]periences in attempting to norm[alise] relationships with these three count[ries].

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 December 1971)

Russian policy successes in 1971 seem lightweight

It was the year in which the pattern of the seventies began to take shape. Communist China came right back out of the cold into the centre of world politics. Great Britain decided to join the Common Market after the French veto disappeared. The aftermath of the Polish workers' uprising came with the demise of Gomulka; and another leading East Bloc figure Walter Ulbricht was ousted.

And the treaties between East and West involving the Federal Republic continued on their way. Towards the end of this decisive year of 1971 the Soviet Union began to reconsider certain points.

Above all the Soviet anger at certain alliances struck up by countries of the capitalist West seems to be growing.

The manner in which the capitalist currency crisis was overcome surprised the Russians and their satellites. The Kremlin had built the Western currency crisis into its foreign policy planning as a long-term factor and has, logically, been very disappointed by the compromise that was reached in Washington.

And as all the forecasts in the press and party periodicals in the East Bloc stated that the currency crisis would trouble the Capitalists for some time it is now essential for them to backtrack and try to rescue themselves from this embarrassment. Now the agreement reached in Washington is being dubbed unstable, provisional and artificial.

And the decisions taken by the Nato conference in Brussels have not exactly pleased the East Bloc governments. They are upset at the delaying tactics being employed by the Americans and British on the matter of the European security conference, which they want.

They are being particularly hard in their attitude towards Great Britain. The Soviet Union considers that Great Britain is now taking the same line that Prussia and National-Socialist Germany once took.

The Soviets are gathering together all the material they can lay their hands on to try to show what nasty people the British are. The worst manifestation of this, according to Moscow commentators, is the continuation of the Churchillian ideal of the unification of Western Europe.

This is particularly dangerous and the consequences will be fraught with peril, they declare, since it will mean a truncated Europe in alliance with the Americans. Therefore the British concept must be countered consistently as an ideal that is detrimental to the future of Europe as a whole, they claim.

This is a clear indication of the head-on collision of interests between the Soviet Union and Great Britain when it comes to the question of Europe. The Euro-Asian empire is simply following its own traditions, but the British are hardly novices in the policy of playing off one State against another.

Both powers have at roughly the same time discovered their love for Europe. It is just that the one wishes to embrace it one way, the other another.

And now the Soviet Union has discovered that "the evil British are marching alongside the reactionary West Germans" in their preference for China and are hoping to incite the Chinese against the Russians.

This thesis corresponds with another, namely that there are supposed to have been secret agreements between Washington and Peking, which are likewise directed against the Soviet Union and against India. On the other hand it has been triumphantly declared by the Soviet Union that the conflict in South Asia has given Moscow a great advantage and the Americans and Chinese a decided disadvantage.

South Asia is one trump Brezhnev has to play when the end-of-year balance sheet is drawn up and the second trump is the German and French position on the European continent.

The agreements between the two Germanies are being regarded as a great triumph for the situation in Europe and a decided shift in the balance of power in favour of the Soviet Union.

Alexander Korab

(Münchner Merkur, 27 December 1971)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Managing [Edi]tor: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander An[...]. English language sub-editor: Geoffrey Pen[...]. Distribution Manager: Georgine von Pla[ten].

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Sch[öne] Aussicht, Hamburg 76. Tel.: 2 28 51. T[elex] 02 14733. Bonn bureau: Konrad Kadlubo[wski], 66 Adenauerallee, 53 Bonn. Tel.: 22 61 53. [Te]lex: 08 86398.

Advertising rates list No. 9 — Annual subscription DM 25.

Printed by Krögers Buch- und Verlagsdr[ucke]rei, Hamburg-Blankenese. Distributed in [the] USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West [...] Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIB[UNE] reprint are published in cooperation with [the] editorial staffs of leading newspapers of [the] Federal Republic of Germany. They are c[om]plete translations of the original text, [in no] way abridged nor editorially redrafted. [THE] GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes a Qua[rterly] Review and a Supplement, articles sel[ected] from German periodicals.

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■ POLITICS

A review of the position of the major parties at the end of the year

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG
Industriekurier

It seems as though the Brandt/Scheel coalition government is over the hump. Since the autumn the SPD/FDP grouping in Bonn has had the feeling that it was getting second wind. Although the sorry tale of rising prices continues it does seem to be slackening off at last, for the first time in ages.

The agreement concluded in Washington concerning the realignment of currency exchange rates brought Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Professor Karl Schiller just the success he wanted before the old year was laid to rest. Thanks to this the final reckoning of his achievements in 1971 will not be in the red.

The Four-Power agreement, the agreement on transit to Berlin and the general Berlin settlement will be marked down as a step in the right direction in the German policy and Ostpolitik spheres, even though this is far removed from satisfying the wishes of Germans on this side of the border and the other side.

It is precisely the results of the Ostpolitik and Deutschlandpolitik that seem to have given the government a good name in the general public's book. Willy Brandt and Walter Scheel are to a major extent identified personally with these policies and their success.

The award of the Nobel Prize for Peace to Willy Brandt has only served to convince the citizens of this country that they are right in their assessment.

Thus it is no surprise that the latest public opinion poll conducted at the behest of the Press and Information Office in Bonn has for the first time shown the Social Democrats out ahead of the CDU/CSU. Forty per cent were in favour of the SPD, 37 per cent for the "Union" parties and six per cent for the Free Democrats, with sixteen per cent don't knows.

Within the SPD worries have been growing. At the extraordinary party-political meeting which the rank and file forced on the party leadership to discuss tax affairs and matters of organisation the leaders rather lost control of the situation.

Unholy alliances were created, for example on the question of taxes between the SPD local government politicians and the revolutionary Young Socialists after the local government men found themselves under pressure.

Above all there were warning voices to be heard from Willy Brandt, Karl Schiller and Klaus-Dieter Arndt that economic growth should not be stifled or it would be impossible to carry out reforms. These warnings for the most part seemed to fall on deaf ears.

Willy Brandt had to exercise all his authority and announce that as the head of government he could not abide by the decisions taken at this party congress.

The SPD plans for advancing holdings of capital in private hands were shelved because the party leadership and the Young Socialists with their hangers-on could not find common ground on this score, and for quite different reasons.

On account of the high tax rates and the trimmings that went with them, which the party congress had managed to push through, the leadership got cold feet and did not want to strain the economy further with a large contribution for capital wealth accumulation purposes. The Young Socialists were sceptical about capital wealth plans, however, because they "uphold the system".

But Willy Brandt must really be fearing for the unity and solidarity of the Party, as well. Too many delegates and those they work with misunderstood the Chancellor's efforts to make the State and society more democratic. And they forgot that an essential part of democratic freedom is greater discipline and solidarity if a party is to appear successful to the outside world.

It is the Free Democrats who profit most from the increased splintering of the SPD and the economic irrationality of some groups within the Party. As far the German policy and Ostpolitik are concerned the Chairman of the party, Walter Scheel, has obviously had great popular success.

The graph of the Scheel popularity poll is rising at a suprisingly sharp angle.

The SPD conferences have to a certain extent confirmed the importance of the liberal influence in this government where economic affairs and domestic policies are concerned. At any rate the weight carried by the FDP has been far greater in its alliance with the Social Democrats than it ever was when working alongside the CDU/CSU.

As far as the Ostpolitik is concerned some of the gilt has been knocked off the gingerbread of those provincial assembly election successes. Of course the problem of choosing their man for the Chancellorship is now over and the party has managed to give an appearance of solidarity under Rainer Barzel.

But in its attempts to block the government in the Bundesrat the CDU/CSU has at the outset suffered a few setbacks. It was in the end unable to prevent the passing of the tenant's protection legislation nor Company Law since the government called out all its forces.

The economic situation is likely to provide the Opposition with plenty of ammunition for sniping at the government throughout 1972.

The outflow of the hot dollars will do nothing immediate and direct to bring down rising prices.

Although moderation has been shown at recent collective bargaining sessions compared with wage and salary scale talks in the past, still the demands being made far outstrip productivity increases.

Increases in rail fares and freight charges and in the postal services in 1972 will do their bit to push prices up even further.

It is likely to be a long time before this country enjoys another major economic boom. The amount raised by the taxman is likely to be less than estimated.

So the government will have to cut corners with its "internal reforms" in the year, at least those that will prove costly. What could be more tempting for the Opposition than to attack the government at its weak spot?

But as things stand at present the year 1972 is likely to be dominated by the discussions in the Bundestag surrounding the ratification of the treaties with Moscow and Warsaw. On this score the Opposition has talked itself into a difficult role.

To come out against what is obviously a majority of public opinion in favour of these treaties and say an adamant No to them requires a good deal of courage.

Peter Christian Müller

(Handelsblatt, 27 December 1971)

Labour Minister Walter Arendt has achieved much in 2 years in office

It was a bellyflop of the most embarrassing kind in the full glare of publicity when the miner's leader Walter Arendt came on the scene as Labour Minister in the new SPD/FDP coalition government in 1969. He made headlines with a promise of extra cash for pensioners at Christmas and his promise hit the headlines again when it was refused by the Cabinet for lack of money.

Today Walter Arendt is right in the middle of government policymaking again although his hard work and painstaking efforts are not so often in the glare of publicity as the work done by his ministerial colleagues.

His intermediate situation report from 1 January 1972 which will be published in the spring shows him as a most successful Cabinet minister on the domestic policy scene – although there has been much criticism of the details of his work.

This can be shown by certain statistics. In the mere two years he has spent in office Walter Arendt has pushed through eighteen laws and forty regulations. This does not include Company Law which still has to receive formal acceptance. And a further six laws are in the pipeline.

It is not until we see these figures that we realise the progress that has been made by Herr Arendt step by step, since it is only the real milestones that tend to hit the headlines. But there have been milestones in these two years and among them:

The pension reform package which he introduced into the Bundestag with its five points of emphasis: flexible retiring age, controlled raising of small pensions, an additional year of insurance for mothers (the baby-year), a general opening up of old-age pension insurance and a fairer distribution of property and maintenance arrangements in divorce cases.

Secondly the reform of sickness insurance which has now become law, with its two main points of emphasis – opening it up for the seven million white-collar workers and the employers' contribution to the premium for white-collar employees.

Thirdly the reform of accident insurance which is also now law. This now guarantees 10,500,000 children, schoolchildren and students insurance in case of accidents.

Fourthy the doubling of the savings allowance deducted from tax from 312 to 624 Marks to encourage the accumulation of capital wealth in private hands.

Fifthly the revision of Company Law.

The small steps that have been taken between these milestones add up to a major step in the right direction. If, at the outset, the individual does not feel he is better off this is no cause for criticism – it was planned that way. The main purpose of these reforms was to make the whole complicated system of labour and social welfare laws more comprehensible. Committees of experts have been working on these reforms since 1970.

Along with the work of making these laws more easily understood there have been other reforms which likewise have not affected the individual directly yet many cases. Among them are:

Protection at work. In 1970 one in ten of the 27 million working people in the Federal Republic suffered from some kind of accident at work, a fall or a sickness directly connected with their line of work.

The cost of these accidents and sicknesses totalled up to an astronomical 5,400 million Marks and the tendency is for such accidents and illnesses to be on the increase.

Walter Arendt is out to reverse this trend, which is not only damaging to society, but also extremely expensive.

For this purpose he intends to set up a Federal Institute for Research into Accidents at Work in Dortmund in the spring of this year. The preparatory work for this project has already been completed.

But in addition to this institute it is essential to step up the legal provisions for safety at work and extend the work of protecting people on the factory floor by providing more factory doctors and improved safety precautions.

As a result of this Walter Arendt hopes that a more thorough job of research into what causes accidents at work can be carried out to provide the basis for further legislative measures and to increase the number of university departments researching into work and health.

Secondly the rehabilitation programme. In April 1970 it was decided to start a campaign of action to rehabilitate invalids into society. This was started with the double aim of helping the handicapped to face their fate with greater mental strength by providing them with suitable work and of turning pensioners who were a burden on the State into a productive work force.

The method of carrying out this programme is to set up a nationwide network of rehabilitation centres and to provide more funds for such centres.

Thirdly labour market policy. This is the heading Walter Arendt gives to a number of measures concerned with the protection of the interests of workers, intensification of measures to make building possible throughout the winter, helping foreign workers to adjust to society here and the promotion of schemes to make working in West Berlin more attractive.

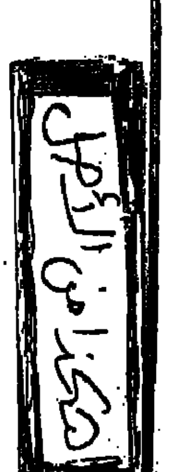
But the most important measure concerns the work of the committee for economic and social change, which tried back in the days of the Grand Coalition to make forecasts about the progress of modernisation and rationalisation methods. At the time this committee had no legal blessing. Those who think our industry cannot afford such luxuries as a stoker on an electric loco will be glad to hear of this job of work.

Fourthly vocation training. A number of new regulations and schemes surround this subject and some figures issued by the Federal Labour Institute in Nuremberg help to make this clearer: Under Herr Arendt's scheme in 1970 a total of 171,402 workers took the opportunity to learn a skill, learn the latest techniques in their particular skill or retrain for a new job. In the first six months alone of 1971 the number was 155,072.

In addition to this Herr Arendt has turned his attention to various sections of the community:

The war wounded. Starting on 1 January 1970 war pensions were adjusted

Continued on page 4



ARMED FORCES

Defence white book causes hardly a ripple of public reaction

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Reaction to this year's defence white book published by the Bonn government has been quite slight. At least it has been slighter than the reaction to last year's.

In the light of the thorough and carefully publicised programme of reform issuing from the Hardthöhe defence headquarters in the past couple of years it may be that saturation point has been reached and that the public has had too much of defence reform to be interested still.

And so Helmust Schmidt and his Defence Ministry are going out of their way to live up to their own style of defence reforms, a style based on the surprise element.

Major topics of defence and the questions arising have been, if not settled, at least laid on the table, turned over in the reports made by certain committees and published on this basis.

In order to improve the justice of the period of service – and, it was hoped, the willingness of conscripts to undergo it – the term of service was cut from eighteen months to fifteen.

As far as the structure of the defence forces is concerned decisive changes are to be expected in the eighties (such as a professional army and militia), and on the subject of education and training of soldiers the Ellwein Commission has come out with some new ideas.

This was all well known before the white book was issued, and following its publication nothing more is known, to be exact. For this cunning publication did not, for example, say when this new concept of training is likely to be implemented nor how the middle-term planning of defence structure and strategy would look, for instance if comprising and going beyond the Jaeger concept.

But before the authors of this work are blamed it should be remembered that their work was of an intentionally provisional nature. It is far less a programme of action than a point of view and sets out to describe the apparatus that is the Bundeswehr not to shake it up by dropping a bombshell.

This is a white book fitting for the forces, solid, reliable, but rather easy-going, which is particularly true of the superficial treatment of the subject of "Innere Führung" (literally, inner leadership).

While the bold brasshats of Unna and all other solid, worthy soldiers promptly protested when they found their favourite picture of enemies on the east flank, allies on the west, looking a little out of focus they have to date taken the white book's insubstantial treatment of "Innere Führung" without complaint.

The much talked about social welfare measures for soldiers do not make up for this lack, as optimists at the Defence Ministry are hoping, since the Bundeswehr must always offer adequate social welfare provisions if it is to remain competitive in the recruiting of labour.

If, however, social welfare measures are the be-all and end-all of the army in a democratic country then it would have been possible to avoid all the tiresome and difficult discussions on the subject of "Innere Führung" in the years when the Bundeswehr was formed. It would have been just as practicable to introduce the basic working principles of Siemens or Volkswagen to the armed forces.

The most striking contradiction in this white book is in the cordial reliance it places on the chances of armament controls (which form a major part of the Western world's efforts to obtain security) and the precisely described increase in Soviet rearmament.

Those who are sceptical about the hopes of detente have seized on this discrepancy avidly, calling it "illogical". But this gambit against the policy of relaxation of tension is challenged by the white book's argumentation, since it places too much emphasis on Russian rearmament and too little on the legality of the worldwide call to arms.

The white book comes up with the (obvious) formulation that today it is "possible to do all that is militarily necessary to prevent war without neglecting the political requirements for the securing of peace".

It one starts with this assumption then it follows that the duty at present of the armed forces is to prevent war by military means. But with the immense cost of defence and the risks involved this cannot be a long-term method of securing peace on which any reliability can be placed.

And it is precisely this that the white book does not point out clearly enough. Of course it underlines the cost and the limitations of armament and even hints that security is not conceivable in military terms alone. But this is a far too abstract and halfhearted way of putting the point.

It is the brasshat in Unna and the man doing his period of service against his will who should be informed of the new categories of security in Europe on the basis of mutual help and trust, which will require a political rethink by all concerned if they are to be brought into force.

This is something that Karl Wienand, the parliamentary business manager of the SPD, and his party's defence expert, demanded at the last conference to discuss defence policy held by the SPD in Bavaria.

Christian Potyka

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 December 1971)

Labour Minister Walter Arendt

Continued from page 3

annually to the state of the economy, an increase was announced and structural improvements were made to improve the lot of widows and the severly handicapped.

Farmers. The wheels of the Law are now turning over a Bill introduced by Walter Arendt on 13 October 1971 which would give legal insurance protection to 2,400,000 in case of sickness.

Conscripts who are on voluntary non-military duties *(Ersatzdienst)*. In 1970 Arendt together with Hans Iven appointed an official to work on the question of substitute service for conscientious objectors. He is now working on a legal amendment which will improve the status of *Ersatzdienst* conscripts, who are discriminated against as opposed to those who do military service.

In addition to these reforms Walter Arendt, who sees social welfare policy as being designed to make working life more humane, has published a good deal of information about his work and has contributed towards intensive discussions with all concerned.

But he is not now content to rest on his laurels. He has announced ten new proposals for the second and shorter period of this term of office. One of his major objectives is to share out the economic cake more fairly by giving workers a share in profits.

There is only one measure that Arendt as Chairman of the Miners Union backs wholeheartedly but which is not on his list, namely worker participation in management on a basis of equality. But this is not up to him. It is up to the balance of power in he Bundestag to decide the fate of this move.

Rolf Fischer

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 December 1971)

Armed forces to be led by a sailor

A new inspector-general for the Bundeswehr, the West German armed forces, has been appointed to take effect from April 1972. Armin Zimmermann will take over from General Ulrich de Maizière, making a break with tradition, for this will mean that a naval man will be for the first time head of the armed forces.

At the same time the navy will be able to boast that Zimmermann is now a "full admiral", that is to say a four-star admiral. This does not mean that the barriers between the various sections of the armed forces will be torn down completely, but at least they will be lowered to a certain extent.

In the future as in the past the qualities of the claimants to the post of Inspector-General will be more important than the colour of the uniform they wear.

This does mean that the monopoly held so far by the grey uniform of the army generals has been broken. But there can be no question of a lowering of the value of the West German army in Central Europe.

This is especially true considering that the post of Inspector-General does not involve the man in question standing on a vantage point and commanding his troops. His task is to act as military adviser to his minister and government as well as to coordinate operations and take decisions for the army, navy and airforce.

Departing Inspector General de Maizière defined the position as requiring more than the talents of "a deskbound general". He pointed out that the man for the job must have good political qualities.

The Inspector-General must represent the national military interests on international committees and especially at meetings of the Nato alliance.

Armin Zimmermann, who was born 1917 in Brazil and speaks perfect English has the ideal qualifications for this post. Between 1957 and 1960 he was the military attaché in London and later worked with Nato. He has been an adviser on military affairs at the Defence Ministry in Bonn and thus knows his way around the international military scene.

But the real test is yet to come and there will be many critics waiting for him to make a mistake, working on the assumption that a navy man could not adequately represent the other forces and their interests.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 December 1971)

New armed forces appointments for 1972

DIE WELT

Spring 1972 will see the next major revision of leading posts in the Bundeswehr. At the top of the list of changes to military staff that will come on 1 April, and which has just been published by the Defence Ministry, is the name of Vice-Admiral Zimmermann.

Admiral Zimmermann, at present Commander-in-Chief of the navy will become Inspector General of the armed forces and replace General Ulrich de Maizière, who is retiring.

The post of Inspector General, until now always the preserve of a man from the largest of the West German armed forces, the army, will thus pass into the hands of a representative of the smallest of the armed forces, the Bundesmarine.

On 1 April the following six officers will also be retiring from the army. Major-General Werner Drews, the head of territorial command south. He will be succeeded by Brigadier-General Hans Jürgen von Kalckreuth, the longest serving officer to represent the Federal Republic in Nato.

His successor will be Colonel Alexander Frevert-Niedermein, commander of the 7th tank corps, who will in his turn be succeeded by Colonel Hermann Vogt, chief of staff of the second division fusiliers.

Brigadier-General Hans Straden, general in command at the Army Office. Taking over from him will be Brigadier-General Hubertus Großler, commander of the army signals school. His post will go to Colonel Hans Günther Groß, chief of the inspection staff of command at the Army Office.

Brigadier-General Armin Eck, chief of the army security office (MAD). The new MAD chief will be Colonel Albert Scherer from the Defence Ministry.

Brigadier Hans-Joachim Kersohkamp, commander of the Army Officer School. His successor will be Colonel Rolf Schröder, who has been up till now at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (Shape).

Brigadier-General Wilhelm Renner, commander of the 21st tank brigade. His place will be taken by Colonel Richard Baron von Rosen, an adviser to the Defence Ministry.

Brigadier-General Dr Herbert Fritz of the Bundeswehr Office. His successor has not yet been appointed.

In the Luftwaffe Brigadier-General Gerhard Langguth, commander of the Luftwaffe training command at the Luftwaffe Office is retiring. His appointed successor from 1 April is Brigadier-General Peter Lillenskiold, deputy divisional leader of the personnel department at the Ministry.

The new head of the naval strike force North Sea division will be Admiral-of-the-Fleet Günter Luther. His post as commander of the fleet air arm will be taken by Captain Paul Kriebel, an adviser to the Ministry.

Admiral-of-the-Fleet Rolf Böhe, Admiral to the marine equipment division of the Naval Office is going into retirement. His post will be taken by Captain Uwe Sörensen, chief of inspection of naval technology at the Naval Office.

For Admiral-of-the-Fleet Rolf Thomsen, commander of the naval division North Sea, who is also giving up his post, no successor has yet been appointed.

(Die Welt, 23 December 1971)

CAREERS

Perks make civil service job remunerative

DIE ZEIT

No one begrudges the civil servant the nice increase in salary he has received in recent years. The days when a part of his salary had to be replaced by the gratitude of the Fatherland are past and gone. No government inspector nor high-ranking official now has to draw in his belt because he has put his services at the disposal of the State's authority. There can be no question of lost ground to be made up in this sphere.

And nowadays comparisons between the sort of money that can be made in the private sector and in the public service no longer hit the mark. They are irrelevant in the case of the lower orders of civil servant as much as in the case of the top bureaucrats and ministers.

For they take no account of invisible earnings – which every official and person in the public service receives. These come in the form of tax-free financial aid, grants and other perquisites which are never the subject of conversation at collective bargaining sessions.

This "invisible" section of civil service pay comes under the general heading of "special welfare from public service employers". And where this welfare is concerned Bonn, the Federal states and local governments are not stingy.

The government, railways and postal services employ 570,000 officials, 225,000 white-collar workers and 390,000 workmen. The total wage bill for this work force in 1971 was 17.4 milliard Marks. The eleven Federal states employ 690,000 officials, 340,000 white-collar workers and 150,000 workmen. In 1971 they were paid a total of 27 milliard Marks. The 28,000 local governments in the Federal Republic have 135,000 officials, 350,000 white-collar workers and 270,000 blue-collar workmen earning last year a total of 15 milliard Marks. For the public services the total wage bill was therefore sixty milliard Marks. One Mark in three raised by taxes goes on wages and salaries.

Calculations made by the confederation of taxpayers show that the annual net income of a civil servant, when these special welfare payments are taken into account, is about 5,000 Marks higher than a man in a similar position in private industry receives.

To the outsider the most obvious part of the special perks for a civil servant is his generous old-age pension. This pension, for which he has to make no payments during his working life, is reckoned from the tenth year of service at 35 per cent of his working salary and continues with every extra year of service up to 75 per cent, which is achieved at the end of 35 years of service at a minimum age of 52.

And the white-collar worker in the civil service need no longer cast envious eyes on his superiors in the executive bracket. His old-age pension through the white-collar workers' assurance scheme is bumped up to the same level as that of the senior official by the Welfare Association of the central government and the Federal state governments, which is based in Karlsruhe.

And the pension and welfare provisions for other civil servants are far more considerable than for their counterparts in private industry (see inset).

But that is not all. Apart from the old-age pension there are a dozen other extra benefits which never appear on a pay chit, which are worked out through various ministerial, finance and administrative channels and are taxfree.

While workers in the private sector have to declare every extra benefit they obtain from their employer, be it naught more than the charlady's breakfast, the civil servant is spared the grasping hand of the tax official for even the most generous payments on the side.

Take the expense account, for instance. This may be anything between thirty and 450 Marks per month in the case of Bonn and Federal state officials.

Shorthand typists can claim their thirty Marks. State secretaries are allowed up to 450 Marks. For a Bonn Minister expenses can be up to six hundred Marks. The Chancellor is allowed 2,000 Marks. The Federal President 11,000!

Drivers, commissionaires and messengers in the private sector who are given an allowance for their uniforms and working clothes have to declare them to the taxman. Civil servants do not.

One particularly pleasant aspect of being in the public service is the welfare provided in the case of sickness, death or pregnancy. This is between fifty and seventy per cent of the costs, and can in some circumstances rise to ninety per cent. Some ministries even have their own experts to manage this part of the welfare programme, so popular are these extra payments.

It can so happen that the wife of a ministry official will have an expensive course of dental treatment and receive full repayment for it if she and her husband have their State welfare calculated jointly. It is rumoured that some people in the public service have arranged their affairs so cleverly that their welfare receipts were in certain cases more than one hundred per cent.

Another lucrative sideline is the living allowance. There are several thousand houses and flats in Bonn and the Federal state capitals belonging to the governments and rented out at a very favourable rate to civil servants. When a civil servant wants to set up a home of his own he can count on generous help from his employers. Large loans can be offered.

The army of civil servants

Governement, state and local govt. workers in 1970, totalling 3,073,000 of which (in 1000s):

Local organisations 109 · Political and administrative 188 · 153 Economic concerns · Transport 178 and news media · Others 112 · Law 107 · Universities 133 · Finance 187 · 408 Rail · 409 Post · 198 Police · 171 Defence (civil staff) · 117 Social welfare · 201 Health and sport · 382 Schools

For example: an official who is not in the top bracket may build or buy himself a house of luxurious proportions and receive a loan of anything up to 35,000 Marks. The interest on this loan is half a per cent per annum plus a half per cent amortization. This is nothing less than a generous present from the government for its employees.

Not many employers in the private sector are capable of giving their employees such a generous cost of living allowance.

It is not senior officials and white-collar workers in the public service who have ground to make up, but the blue-collar workers. And they, too, have a better time of it than their counterparts in the private sector.

One in seven workmen is in the employ of the State. An extra 3,800 million Marks is to be made available for pay rises to them in 1972. This will be arranged by raising the standards for the executive level of the service, by boosting family allowances and switching them from weekly wages to monthly salaries. Every additional percent pay rise costs the State an extra 300 million Marks.

If the new round of pay talks grants the 1,200,000 government, rail and postal workers a seven-per-cent pay rise this will mean an additional burden of 2,100 million Marks on the 1972 budget.

The call for equal wages and salaries in the private sector and the civil service takes no account of the fact that many local authorities have organised a kind of self-service system when it comes to improvement of remuneration.

Since it was difficult in the past to get salary increases and other bonuses approved the problem was circumvented by arranging promotions.

In all fairness it must be added that this was the only way a bureaucratic job could be made attractive for new blood. Leading government positions were upgraded to ministerial positions and the like.

In many administrations the number of leading officials is swelling while the number of ordinary secretaries and clerks is stagnating.

Gross income of the top white-collar workers in the private sector would have to be raised by between ten and sixty per cent, according to age, if they were to provide from their own means an old-age pension comparable to that of a civil servant. This only amounts to a standard fixed sum for the total period of retirement. If the worker in private trade and industry were to provide himself with a "dynamic" pension, that is to say one corresponding to his working wage then his salary would have to be increased by between fifty and 125 per cent.

A married 35 year-old official in the Hamburg tax office with two children and ten years' service behind him, paid according to the scale of group A 11 receives a gross monthly salary of 1,978 Marks 41 Pfennigs. This is made up of a basic salary of 1,311 Marks 8 Pfennigs, a special grant of 39 Marks 30 Pfennigs, an allowance for working in the city of 428 Marks, a child allowance of one hundred Marks and a bonus of a further hundred.

A senior government official in the same administration, 40, married with two children comes in group A 14 with a gross monthly salary of 2,375 Marks 1 Pfennig.

A thirty year-old Bonn government official, married with no children and four years' service behind him earns 2,065 Marks gross, which is about 650 Marks more than he would have been earning in the same position six years ago.

In addition there are the facilities for setting up a home, holidays with pay, sickness benefits and interest-free loans for stocking up with oil or potatoes for the winter. And if a visit to a sanatorium is considered necessary that will be taken care of as well.

Who can say that the civil service is not a paying job?

Wilhelm Lange

(Die Zeit, 24 December 1971)

Hamburg has one Mark millionaire per 1,500 citizens

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG
Industriekurier

The number of Mark millionaires in Hamburg increased between 1966 and 1969 by more than 45 per cent, according to an investigation carried out by the Hamburg state Statistics Office.

The total taxable wealth of the 1,231 millionaires (the number was 846 in 1966) is more than 5,000 million Marks. This represents an increase of 43.5 per cent as compared with 1966.

But for this elite group of big earners the average wealth has declined slightly from 4,100,000 to four million Marks. However, this estimate is obviously far too low since the effective sales value of estates is judged not by the state of the market at present, but by the fixed standard valuation of 1935.

The state Statistics Office has taken stock of this small corner of the overall division of wealth at a time of reorientation and reorganisation of all social spheres and considers the results of particular interest to the general public.

It is considered that the increase in the number of wealthy men is of particular interest in the sphere of social welfare policy-making. Whether the information gathered will be put to any use remains to be seen. But it is enlightening in any case.

Similar investigations are being carried out only in the Federal states of Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony and the Rhineland Palatinate. In comparison with these states Hamburg is highly prosperous, since there is a millionaire to every 1,500 Hamburg citizens, whereas the other three states have only 1 in 5,000 in the seven-figure bracket.

And the total wealth of Hamburg millionaires on average is higher than in the two neighbouring states by 1,200,000 Marks.

(Handelsblatt, 27 December 1971)

■ CURRENCY AFFAIRS

Washington decision puts EEC on the spot

The agreement on the new rates of currency exchange has not only solved problems. It has also created new problems, especially for the European Economic Community and particularly because of the decision to make the international currency system more flexible in future.

The so-called bandwidths within which the exchange rate of a currency may rise or fall were increased by the Washington agreement from one per cent to 2.25 per cent up and down.

For EEC countries the latitude has in fact been decreased to 0.7 per cent up and down. According to the decisions taken in Washington exchange rates will correspond more to the state of the market than has been the case in the past.

Formerly – apart from the short intermezzo of floating – every bank of issue in the EEC was obliged to sell its own currency in exchange for dollars in the desired amount at a rate 0.75 per cent above the average exchange rate, or parity.

In future, banks of issue will only be able to step the fluctuations when they have reached a level 2.25 per cent above or below parity. Thus the total permissible fluctuation, which was previously 1.5 per cent is now 4.5 per cent.

The Six have given reassurances time and again during currency policy discussions in the past few months that among themselves they wanted to keep exchange rates within tight bounds if the decision should be taken – as now it has – to introduce greater international flexibility.

This decision has obvious motives behind it: 1. There are communal prices for farm produce in the EEC, expressed in a special unit of calculation, the Green Dollar, which is converted into the national currencies at the quoted rate. If greater fluctuations in exchange rates are allowed national agriculture prices will alter accordingly. 2. The EEC States form a common market. This requires firmly fixed currency relationships. Currency exchange risks would hamper trading. Thus it was decided at the beginning of the year that the slight fluctuation that was allowed within the EEC, 0,75 per cent, should gradually be whittled away.

But the considerable expansion of the bandwidths in the international currency system casts doubt on this measure. Consider for example if the international value of the Mark were to rise considerably and that of the Franc to drop. Under the newly negotiated scheme the two currencies could drift apart to the tune of 4.5 per cent, 2.25 per cent up and 2.25 per cent down.

If it is decided that within the EEC the old fluctuation limit should be kept the decision would then have to be taken whether to manipulate the value of the Franc upwards (by the purchasing of Francs for currency exchange) or whether pressure should be put on the Mark to bring it down (by sales of the Mark) until both currencies had settled at 1.5 per cent apart.

To give an image of this process it is necessary to think of a broad pipe (4.5 per cent) within which currencies can float. Within this broad pipe is a narrower one (1.5 %) within which the EEC banks of issue have to keep their currencies.

But day after day the political decision would have to be taken whether the EEC pipe were to be moved up or down within the broad international pipe.

If the EEC decides to follow the strong currencies the weaker must be supported. If the weaker currency is to set the pace the stronger currency must be pressurised artificially.

Considering that it is possible for international currency exchange rates to move to a relatively large extent these interventions may be costly but necessary if EEC exchange rates are to be held steady.

In addition to this there is the danger that individual currencies may be manipulated in one direction which does not correspond to the economic requirements. That is to say, it is possible for a currency due for revaluation to be artificially manipulated in a downward direction or vice versa.

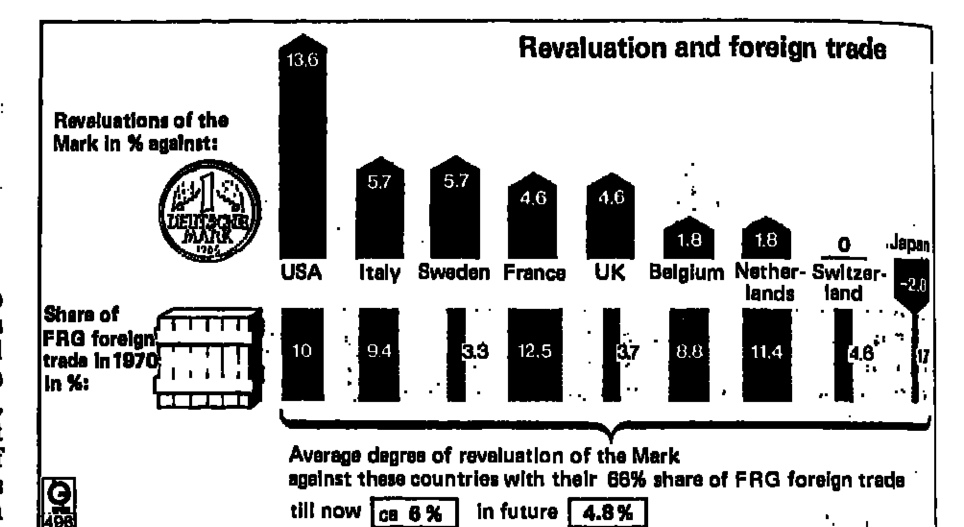
In the light of these problems it was originally suggested that there should be a modest cutback of internal fluctuations (0.6 instead of 0.75 per cent) for a trial period. What the consequences of the new system will be for the Community only time will tell.

With the above mentioned difficulties it scarcely seems possible politically speaking to remain at the fluctuation ceiling of 0.75 per cent, let alone to cut this down. This would not only require a full-time Community body to control currency policies, taking counsel every day on exchange rates, but would also need a degree of solidarity that has so far been sadly lacking.

On the other hand it seems that the Community will have great difficulty sticking to the internationally agreed fluctuation rate.

Difficult political consultations will be required to find a compromise between what behoves the EEC and the strictures of international currency flexibility. It may be necessary for the heads of European governments to step in and take the decisions. *Thomas Löffelholz*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 21 December 1971)



Currency crisis year 1971

The Washington agreement of the Group of Ten marks the end of a currency crisis which began on 5 May 1971 when the currency exchange markets in many European countries closed because they were being flooded with dollars.

This is the calendar of moves and countermoves in the 1971 currency crisis:

8 and 9 May: EEC Finance Ministers at an extraordinary session hear the decision of the Federal Republic and the Netherlands to free the parity of their currencies.

9 May: Switzerland revalues by seven per cent, Austria by 5.05 per cent.

10 May: Currency exchange markets are reopened.

4 August: The Banque de France limits the amount of currency exchange importations.

15 August: President Nixon takes the United States off the gold standard. At the same time he introduces a ten-per-cent import tax surchage and offers reliefs to capital investment goods manufacturers in America.

16 August: All currency exchange markets close except Tokyo.

19 and 20 August: EEC Finance Ministers confer. Karl Schiller and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing fail to reach agreement.

23 August: Currency exchange markets are opened, excepting Zürich. France introduces a split currency exchange market. The Belgian Franc is floated.

26 August: Japan floats the Yen.

15 and 16 September: The Group of Ten meets in London with no agenda prepared. It fails to reach any decisions.

26 September: Another meeting of the Group of Ten (most powerful industrial nations in the free world) this time in Washington.

30 November/1+2 December: The Finance Ministers of the Ten meet in Rome. For the first time the United States mentions the possibility of a dollar devaluation.

3 and 4 December: Willy Brandt and Georges Pompidou meet in Paris. Agree that fixed parities must be restored.

13 and 14 December: Pompidou and Nixon meet in the Azores. Official announcement is made of the dollar devaluation and a realignment of currencies.

17 and 18 December: Meeting of the Finance Ministers of the Ten in Washington.

(Die Welt, 20 December 1971)





History of the Deutschmark

The most important dates in the history of the Deutschmark are as follows:

20 June 1948: Introduction of the D-Mark to replace the Reichsmark in the three western occupied zones.

1 May 1949: Parity fixed at 3.33 to the dollar.

28 September 1949: sterling devalued and parity of the Mark fixed at 4.20 to the dollar.

29 December 1958: Payments between Federal Republic and other countries freed (complete currency convertibility).

6 March 1961: Mark revalued by approximately five per cent to DM 4 to the dollar.

9 May 1969: Bonn government (Grand Coalition) rejects Mark revaluation.

29 September 1969: Same government, under Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger decides to free parity of the Mark, since no agreement can be reached on Economic Affairs Minister Karl Schiller's suggestion to revalue.

27 October 1969: D-Mark parity at 3.66 to the dollar, a revaluation of 9.3 per cent.

9 May 1971: SPD/FDP coalition government decides to float the Mark.

18 December 1971: Group of Ten agrees on multilateral new currency exchange rates.

(Die Welt, 20 December 1971)

Ten settlement was as favourable as possible

With the re-fixing of currency exchange rates and the removal of American import barriers the danger of a disintegration of the international economic setup has been removed for the time being. The uncertainty surrounding foreign trade has been considerably reduced. Thereby the prospects for boosting economic growth in industrial countries in 1972 have been increased.

This appraisal of the current situation was published recently by the Hamburg Institute for Economic Research following the currency decisions taken in Washington.

The result of the Washington talks was the very best political solution that could be achieved in the present circumstances. But it did leave a whole series of questions open.

* The effect of devaluation of the dollar in revaluing other important currencies should be to halt the deterioration of the American balance of payments situation. But it is unlikely to be sufficient to restore equilibrium to the foreign trade position of the United States.

Thus the next crisis for the dollar has already been prepared if no successful move is made to increase the flexibility of the currency exchange system beyond the bounds of the normal latitudes with working mechanism for creating constant adjustment of parities.

* The convertibility of dollars into gold has not been restored. A significant part of the international monetary setup now, as before the floating process was introduced, is the dollar standard. Efforts to increase the application and effectiveness of special drawing rights must therefore be stepped up.

* Currency reserves of developing countries have been diminished with their debts to countries whose currency has been revalued have been increased. It is necessary presumably to introduce some kind of international burden sharing to cover this.

As far as the Federal Republic is concerned the decisions taken in Washington, according to the Institute's Economic Research, have had a far-reaching effect on the Mark which has been revalued. In future the rate compared with the old parity will be considered to be about five per cent higher.

In addition the import tax surcharge, the United States and the discrimination on capital investment goods imported into the United States have been dropped.

All in all this means that the United States has had a great burden removed from its trading position on international markets compared with the situation faced in the past.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 22 December 1971)

■ BUSINESS

White-collar crooks – a growing crime menace

Ten milliard Marks every year – that is the rough estimate of the sum of which "white-collar crooks" cheat the people of this country every year. These are not the blatant criminals with a stocking over their head and a pistol in their hand holding up the local branch of the bank.

Those who fall foul of these "gentleman crooks" rarely notice any signs of violence from them. Physical injury is also likely to be ruled out where their crimes are concerned. But victims are likely to find themselves in a precarious financial position, in which their very existence may be threatened.

Confidence trick crimes increase from year to year and are becoming the bane of police and public prosecutors. They have many aspects. These include uttering dud cheques and forging other bank papers, tax evasion, criminal bankruptcy, share swindles, many types of door-to-door salesmanship, certain competitions, large-scale embezzlement and many other crimes.

One significant point these crimes have in common is that there are usually a small number of criminals with a very large number of victims. And the victims can rarely count on compensation. Unlike robberies, where the goods stolen are usually covered by insurance, there is little a victim of a swindler can do to claim recompense.

The situation is different in Britain, New Zealand and certain states of America where victims can claim against the State. It is argued that the State should be able to provide sufficient welfare facilities to protect its citizens from trickery.

But the authorities know just how difficult it is to do anything about such crimes and preventive measures are impossible in most cases because suspicion is not sufficient for swift action to be taken.

Suspicion is usually only strong enough when a number of unfortunates have been diddled. Some tricksters practise their skulduggery so well that it is difficult to sort out their illegal actions from legal activities.

When there is suspicion of a fraudulent bankruptcy dozens of files must be searched thoroughly and thousands of papers must be gone through before a culpable offence can be brought to light.

Another point to be remembered is that confidence tricksters are generally hardened cases and are not likely to be put off just because they have been caught out once. There are numerous cases in criminal history of swindlers who, knowing the police were hot on the trail of one of their misdeeds, blithely carried on cheating innocent victims, perhaps by adopting a new line.

Criminologists say that con men are usually of above average intelligence, but unscrupulous, hard-hearted and egoistic. The proportion of recidivists in this category of crime is higher than in almost all others. Most are habitual criminals.

One of the main reasons why this type of crime is on the increase is that the measures taken to bring con men to justice are not effective enough.

The pertinent legal provisions are in some cases one hundred years old and completely out of date. The scale of confidence tricks has become so great that even the fattest fish are able to slip through the net, as long as they are slippery enough.

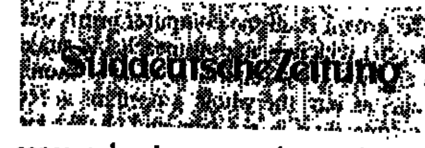
There is no lack of suggestions for combatting this type of crime. There are first and foremost two possible lines that could be taken – firstly legislation to provide stricter controls and prevent swindling and secondly, where prevention fails, the cure that would come with stiffer penalties.

For instance the Chamber of Trade and Commerce in Munich has moved that all who have been refused a licence to start up a business in the past five years should be subject to an intensive investigation.

Unfortunately the Bill that arose from this idea and is at present on its way through the Bundesrat has not followed the suggestion particularly closely.

However, the opportunities for preventing a possible crook setting up a business for fraudulent purposes have been stepped up. Now it is no longer necessary to prove that such a setup would be a positive danger to the public good.

Another important amendment to previous legislation is that the authorities can continue to carry out preventive measures against a shady concern even if that



concern has been wound up. This prevents crooks who fear the long arm of the law is about to grab them from closing up shop until the heat dies down, as has happened in the past.

These measures in conjunction with the proposed central business register (along the lines of the register of traffic offenders kept in Flensburg) could prove very useful in preventing swindles.

Another important starting point for a revision of the old system is to introduce far stiffer penalties for confidence tricksters who do fall into the net, to put an end to the old accusation that the man who fiddles his way to a million gets off more lightly than the man who steals the petty cash.

Lawyers are also debating whether it would be possible to apply a category of criminal neglect in the case of swindlers, since, in the past one line of defence when some shady business came to light was always that there was not wilful intent to profit from the shady dealing.

A special commission set up by the Minister of Justice, Gerhard Jahn, will shortly publish its findings on this score.

Furthermore it seems high time the penalties imposed on the confidence trickster and crooked businessmen were increased simply to add to the deterrent effect. *Helmut Maier-Mannhart*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 December 1971)

Pros and cons of the four-day week

Experts maintain that for years to come industry in the Federal Republic will be starved of workers. This is all the more likely if more and more foreign workers return to their homelands, the birth rate drops, the period of schooling is lengthened and early retirement is introduced.

In the light of this, is the call for the four-day week, which the Allensbach public opinion research institute claims is being raised by about half the people in West Germany, pure nonsense?

Hermann J. Göbel has sifted through the information on this subject that has so far come out of the United States and one or two other industrial countries and has drawn up a list of the pros and cons.

He points out that well-known futurologists are forecasting a thirty-hour week in the 1980s and a four-hour day by the turn of the century. On this basis he feels that the forty-hour, four-day week must be just around the corner. Thus, he feels, we must waste no time in gauging the possible effects for companies.

The approximately one hundred US companies employing in all 18,000 people which have already switched to the four-day week have noted the following beneficial effects of the new work pattern:

A greater challenge particularly for the younger members of their staff, a much better working atmosphere, greater thought and cooperation in planning with more and more suggestions for improvements, a sharp decline in absenteeism, less sickness, fluctuation and Monday-morning blues, as well as better utilisation of the firm's time.

In addition to this the staff tend to be more readily disposed to managerial changes and productivity increases noticeable if the changeover is made with the right degree of planning and organisation.

The other side of the coin is this: Four ten-hour days in the week obviously push the human being to the limit of his capabilities, physically and psychologically and pay no heed to the productivity graph.

Greater private tension tends to build up on the lengthened weekend. There is an increase in the number of illegal jobs done on the side and the increased number of long car excursions leads to a greater death toll on the roads. Those who stay at home with little to do tend to fall prey to drink, drugs or crime more easily.

(Handelsblatt, 9 December 1971)

Major concerns must publish trading figures

About ninety firms operating in the Federal Republic will have to open their books to the public next year. Awareness of the fact that the fortunes of major concerns are not only of interest to their shareholders, but also touch any number of third party interests, maybe even affecting their very existence, led to the *Publizitätsgesetz* (publication legislation) which was passed in 1969.

This new legislation will not affect *Aktiengesellschaften* (joint-stock companies) which have already been made subject to tighter publication controls under earlier legislation.

The industrial and trading concerns affected have a total turnover of about 100 milliard Marks and employ approximately one million people. The new legislation also affects about ten private bankers and some insurance companies.

By comparison the total turnover of West German industrial concerns in 1970 was about 529 milliard Marks and the total number of non self-employed workers was 22,500,000.

The legislation provides that companies fulfilling two out of three specified qualifications in three consecutive years should open their books to the public gaze for the first time in the business year 1971.

The criteria are balance sheet totals of more than 125 million Marks, yield on turnover of more than 250 million Marks, and an average of more than 5,000 employees.

Credit institutes have to publish their accounts whenever their business tops an annual 300 million Marks in three consecutive years. An insurance company is affected if its yearly premiums for the previous three years total more than 100 million Marks.

The legislation applies particularly to the GmbH (Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung) or limited company, the OHG (Offene Handelsgesellschaft) or public trading company, the KG (Kommanditgesellschaft) or limited partnership and the private salesman.

But the new legislation does not provide for the publication of private wealth. In the first three months of the new business year a terminal report for the previous year has to be prepared, that is to say a yearly balance sheet with a profit-and-loss account as well as a trading report, but the OHG, KG and private salesman need not produce a trading report and profit-and-loss account.

But when giving the figures for profit on yield they must divulge such facts and figures as yield on participation in other companies, personnel costs, including pension contributions, valuation and depreciation methods and the number of people employed.

Among the largest and best known companies now obliged to throw open their books to the public gaze are Bauknecht, Bosch, Flick, Grundig, Krupp GmbH, Melitta, Miele, Oetker, Osram, Porsche, Quandt, Reemtsma, Röchling, Werhahn and Zeiss. Also the trading companies, Albrecht, C & A (Brenninkmeyer), Haniel, Hertie, Klöckner & Co., Otto-Versand, Ratio, Schickedanz and Tengelmann, as well as the publishing groups Bauer, Burda, Gruner + Jahr, and Springer.

Of the foreign companies affected the more notable are BAT cigarette factories, IBM, Maizena, National Cash Registers, Nestlé and Unilever. Some of the abovementioned have already published their balance sheets voluntarily. *Karlheinz Voss*

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 16 December 1971)

■ AUTOMOBILES

Auto mechanics pure and simple are fast becoming redundant

DIE ZEIT

Auto mechanics, certainly the more ambitious ones, have embarked on a major rethink. They are rapidly coming to be electronics specialists rather than engineers.

Instead of feeler gauges and manometers the tools of their trade are now greenly glowing oscillographs, angle testers and ignition guns. The carburettor is no longer set by ear but with the aid of rev counters and exhaust analysers.

What is more, the counter-hand who notes customers' requirements now has electronic diagnosis equipment at his disposal.

In future the diagnosis will be the main judge of the servicing and repair jobs called for. It will not be long before the diagnosis will be carried out almost entirely automatically — an automatic Mayo car clinic.

Automatic diagnosis will represent the fourth stage in the revolutionary development of car maintenance.

— Stage One was the all-purpose workshop, mechanic's and smithy. It even manufactured its own spares. Time and money were minor considerations since the first car-owners were well-to-do people anyway.

— Stage Two were garages specialising in a specific make of car. They came to the fore from about the early thirties when car-ownership became more widespread. They invented regular servicing, the car coming in at regular intervals for inspection according to a prearranged procedure.

— Stage Three is the present as far as most garages are concerned. Regular hard-and-fast maintenance has been replaced by individual treatment based on the diagnosis.

— Stage Four is automated computerised diagnosis. Via a special set of points in the vehicle itself all important functions are automatically checked.

The benefits of automatic diagnosis are self-evident. The measuring devices are not plugged in by hand so the element of human error is eliminated.

The computer does not only check; it also compares all readings with what they ought to be and automatically determines whether they are in order.

To crown it all the computer prints out a report which is an unimpeachable guide to the vehicle's condition. What is more, it carries out the whole procedure in far less time than in the past and checks far more functions.

Volkswagen have already embarked on this computerised future. The standard diagnosis introduced in 1968 involved a check on sixty points. The computer checks 88 functions, cutting down the time involved from 45 minutes to half an hour.

Yet only thirty checks are made by computer. The remainder are still carried out by a mechanic who feeds the readings to the computer with the aid of an ingenious manual input device.

The computer already does the donkey work, though. It checks all the lights, the level of liquid in the battery, front-wheel track, ignition and compression.

After watching the computer at work (it clatters away adjusting the inspection card, switching on the starter motor, switching the engine off again) it is easy to believe that electronics will revolutionise repairs more than it will the car itself.

Some such development would, for that matter, appear badly overdue. The general public hardly have a good word to say about garages.

Even car-owners who recognise that regular servicing is beneficial are often put off by long waiting-lists, high prices and shoddy workmanship.

Once the guarantee has lapsed a considerable number of cars but in only sporadic appearances at their local garage. The older the car the less often it goes in for repairs.

Unlike garages of the kind that sell fuel and otherwise do little more than change the oil fully-equipped maintenance and repair facilities have not been able to keep pace with the rapid increase in the number of vehicles on the road.

In 1956 there was one mechanic for every twenty motor vehicles. In 1963 he had sixty to handle and at the end of 1970 seventy-seven.

The gap will continue to widen. By 1985 there will be a shortage of more than 50,000 mechanics by today's standards.

In theory rationalisation measures such as computer diagnosis will make a difference. In 1959 a Volkswagen Beetle, for instance, needed 256 minutes of servicing per 10,000 kilometres. It now needs only an hour and a half.

Mercedes-Benz recently increased the recommended interval between services for all cars manufactured since 1 January 1968 from 10,000 to 15,000 kilometres.

At the same time the production and maintenance programme has been rationalised — but these gains are offset by increasingly complex vehicles.

More and more automatic features are incorporated in motor vehicles: from automatic chokes to fully automatic transmission and from self-regulating rear axles to anti-blocking devices for braking systems.

Complicated accessories

And then there are windows that open and close at the flick of a switch, electric sun roofs, additional heaters, central locking devices and central heating. These are what the motoring public want but does the industry realise what a strain it is placing on its service facilities as a result?

A great deal can still be done to further decrease the amount of time spent on servicing vehicles. Electronic fuel injection, for instance, obviates the need for carburettor adjustment (which is a complicated business with twin carbs).

Electronic ignition systems maintain performance and exhaust levels for some time (which will prove increasingly important as mandatory exhaust levels are introduced).

Hydraulic tappets need no adjustment

Continued on page 9

■ MOTORING

Large-scale survey of accident causes produced by insurance association

An insuperable obstacle that has hampered the many organisations devoted to combating traffic accidents has been the lack of a large-scale representative statistical survey of accident causes, which is essential if their work is to hold forth the promise of success.

On the initiative of Herr Jacobi, a director of HUK, the association of third-party, accident and motor vehicle insurers, a man who has spent many years working in the field, being awarded the diesel ring in gold by the Association of Motoring Correspondents in recognition of his services, a survey of this kind has now been conducted and the initial results published.

Details of 63,000 accidents for which claims were made in 1969 have been compiled and tabulated according to 441 criteria and the results arranged in the first section of the report in a set of thirty tables.

Herr Brugger, president of the motor insurers association, recently addressed a press conference held to mark the publication of the fruits of these gargantuan labours.

In its present form the statistical material, he noted, still very much represents raw material. But HUK plan to evaluate it more intensively, publish further material and conduct a scientific analysis with the aim of making specific recommendations on improving road safety.

These recommendations will, in their turn, be made not only with institutions directly or indirectly involved in road safety in mind — Ministries, the police, the courts, driving instructors and mass media, to name but a few.

They would, for instance, Herr Jacobi added, be placed at the disposal of road-planning and building authorities and the motor industry.

Motoring correspondents expressed regret that the statistics of the 63,000 accidents did not include details of the make, model and year of the vehicles involved.

Scientific evaluation of this supplementary information, combined if need be with its release to the motoring public, could, they felt, hardly fail to lead to design improvements orientated towards greater roadworthiness.

This was not to advocate the so-called safety car, a Utopian concept that no one could afford to buy or run.

It nonetheless remains an open secret that there are safe and less safe chassis, safety belts that are too much trouble to fasten, sharp-edged steel dashboard facia ready to smite the motorist between the eyes and wing mirrors with a dangerously wide angle of blind spot.

Further analysis of the statistics so far compiled will call for intensive intellectual effect and attention to detail. It is so easy to fall into the trap of jumping to false conclusions. Take, for instance, the table reprinted on this page and listing accidents involving serious injuries according to cause and speed at which the vehicle was travelling when the danger situation arose. To judge by the table accidents occurring at speeds of over 100 km/h (60 mph) account for a mere 2.3 per cent of the total. By way of comparison the percentage of traffic accidents involving serious injuries that occur at speeds of between 25 and 50 km/h (15-30 mph) is no less than 52.3.

Speed at which danger arose/category of accident

Speed	All categories (as %age of total)	A Overtaking	B Right of way	C Nose-to-tail collision	D Road-hogging	E Leaving road	F Turns, U-turns and changing lane
up to 25 km/h	17.0	4.5	43.6	6.4	4.7	2.0	56.9
between 25 and 50 km/h	52.3	40.1	49.7	45.6	40.3	25.5	36.4
between 50 and 80 km/h	22.8	35.2	6.2	30.9	42.0	48.4	5.2
between 80 and 100 km/h	5.6	13.3	0.4	10.3	9.7	17.7	0.8
over 100 km/h	2.3	6.9	0.1	6.8	3.3	6.4	0.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

The obvious superficial conclusion is that the faster you drive the safer you are. Now speeds of over sixty miles an hour are to all intents and purposes only encountered on autobahns and the autobahns make up only 0.9 per cent of classified roads. The table does not specify how many miles had been driven on what class of road, either.

Another table, let it be added, indicates clearly enough that it is at speeds of over sixty that the most serious accidents occur, not to mention the accidents in which the driver and passengers' prospects of survival are the gloomiest.

A table that is less tricky for the unsuspecting reader is one dealing with percentage distribution of accidents in which the driver tried to overtake in a situation in which it was unwise to do so.

In 29.3 per cent of cases the driver involved in the subsequent accident overtook regardless of oncoming traffic. Vision impeded by gradients and corners seems to have a more inhibiting effect on the reckless driver: Only 2.8 per cent of accidents due to faulty overtaking resulted from attempting to pass the vehicle in front in a situation of this kind.

Yet overtaking before intersections, junctions, crossroads and the like accounts for a further 26.9 per cent of the accident statistics in question.

The survey methods employed by this country's motor insurers association have already occasioned worldwide interest. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, for instance, has recommended its member-countries to compile and evaluate similar statistics.

Paul Botzenhardt
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 18 December 1971)

ADAC rescue helicopter in service
(Photo: Heinz R. Weyers)

Continued from page 8

clutch, steering and brakes can be self-adjusting, though it would be as well to incorporate warning devices to indicate wear and tear on the brakes.

Sealed cooling systems need no checking. Gearbox and rear axle oil are now generally changed once only (at 1,000 kilometres) or not at all. Engines could conceivably manage without oil changes, the Ro 80 rotary-engined NSU being a case in point.

Further savings can be effected by extending the replacement principle. Taking devices apart, repairing them and ressembling them may be satisfying work from a mechanic's point of view but it is not an economic proposition.

It takes times and costs money even when next to no spare parts are needed. Ex-works delivery of replacement parts is so much more rational that even with packaging and transport costs it saves money.

There will never be a car that needs no servicing whatsoever, but the procedure will be considerably simplified. Already the shape of things to come is apparent. Motorists will have their cars overhauled once a year and call at the garage for minor checks maybe twice a year besides.

Stefan Woltereck
(Die Zeit, 24 December 1971)



Computer-controlled patrol cars

The effective deployment of patrol cars in pursuit of fleeing suspects has been decisively accelerated by a new, computer-controlled locator system developed by Siemens and currently being tested by the Nuremberg police. The location of the patrol cars, formerly forced to report their positions, one after the other, to police headquarters, can now be continuously monitored on a TV screen by the dispatcher. So cars can be directed to optimal advantage in emergencies. From radio signals transmitted by the vehicles at regular intervals, the computer determines their location, flashing the information on a data display unit (picture), where the numbers of the patrol cars are pinpointed on a chart of the city streets. (Photo: Siemens)

Medical Council urges greater safety in vehicle building

The Medical Council has called on car-owners and manufacturers to take far-reaching steps to improve the protection afforded against injury in traffic accidents.

The minimum requirements of all motor vehicles, the council feel, should be a combination of safety belts, head rests and splinterproof glass.

Only when all three are combined, the council's sub-committee on transport medicine recommends, can the drawbacks of each on its own be offset and the advantages of all be best utilised.

According to reports from hospital emergency wards motorists with their safety belts fastened hardly ever sustain cerebral injuries resulting from being thrown forward.

Dangerous injuries of the backbone and the neck can, however, occur when drivers and passengers are jolted backwards. The only antidote is a head rest forming as stable a unit as possible with the seat, the Medical Council comment in *Deutsches Ärzteblatt.*

Frequent eye and facial injuries sustained in traffic accidents can, according to hospital emergency wards, be forestalled to a large extent by the use of splinterproof glass.

"It is important that a safety belt be worn at the same time," it is added, "since a head-on collision with safety glass that does not crumble into tiny fragments causes particularly serious cerebral damage and cuts."

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 December 1971)

■ OPERA

Munich production of *Boris* leaves much to be desired



A scene from Günther Rennert's production of *Boris Gudonov*
(Photo: Felicitas Timp

DIE ZEIT

At Munich's Bavarian State Opera the public know what is what. When Boris Gudonov assumes the throne by means of murdering the rightful heir but dies in madness induced by pangs of conscience he can sing and play his heart out in the final scene.

But no matter how convincingly he conveys the schizophrenic mixture of insanity and pangs of conscience, persecution and paternal feeling, despotism and superstition he will die unapplauded. As used to be the case in Bayreuth at the end of Parsifal isolated attempts at applause are hissed into silence. This, after all, is opera.

Even Günther Rennert and his current production of *Boris Gudonov* fight in vain against this sentiment. Now and then he resigns himself to the fact of its existence. Too often, the reviewer feels, but there is little that can be done about it.

A production of Boris Gudonov is first and foremost a matter of the version followed, as in the case of Bruckner's symphonies some decades ago.

Pages of programme notes can be filled with comparison of the original version of 1869, the more popular original version of 1872, the 1896 Rimsky-korsakov version, the 1927 Lamm version combining the two original versions and the 1939 Shostakovich version.

They all are right, Munich too with its choice of Paul Lamm, the Soviet musicologist and Mussorgsky expert. But the bitter, austere melodic line of the resuscitated Mussorgsky score does not go too well with the pomp, colour and folklore-into-opera of the costume and cathedral and monastery sets.

Secondly, Boris Godunov is a matter of casting, mainly of the title role but also of the many other male protagonists.

Martti Talvela of Finland ranks among the best Borises there has ever been. His Tsar Boris lives and rules and suffers, an autocrat and a human being. Günther Rennert has been able to fashion modern musical theatre out of him.

In comparison the protagonists are less satisfactory. As Shuisky Fritz Uhl is anything other than the out-and-out Mephistophelian opportunist and William Cochran as Grigory only slowly develops his voice, his poses remaining operatic clichés.

Take, for that matter, the crowd scenes. When the crowd, dressed in ragged overcoats of thick material, roar their approval of the new Tsar, when they hungrily congregate round the Cathedral and when they finally allow themselves to be won over to the cause of revolution Rennert succeeds in being both expressive and compact.

Yet moments later the scene changes to unmotivated groups, hackneyed gestures and opera theatricality.

Take the burlesque scenes. When the two mendicant monks (Kurt Böhme and Lorenz Fehenberger) take up residence with innkeeper Martha Mödl the drinking scene is so intolerably prolonged that humour is transformed into embarassment.

Yet then again, in a single small walk, the sideways shuffle of the idiot (Gerhard Stolze), Rennert goes on to demonstrate how a solitary gesture can say more than any number of words.

Thirdly, Boris Godunov reiterates the old question as to whether late Romantic realism can be produced today, unbroken operatic realism, that is. Günther Rennert has tried to break the spell now and again and has at times succeeded in so doing.

Then, regardless of the individual singers and the inviolable Munich aura of conductor Rafael Kubelik, he has left the opera to its own devices.

At the Bavarian State Opera he was accorded a standing ovation on the strength of this lapse. But the Munich public know what is what.

Heinz Josef Herbort

(Die Zeit, 17 December 1971)

Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* as a musical

Kiss me Kate (1948) was not the first carefree, shirt-sleeved musical based on Shakespeare. *Boys from Syracuse*, written by George Abbott, music by Richard Rodgers and songs by Larry Hart, dates back to 1938.

Based on the *Comedy of Errors*, it was the first musical modelled on a so-called classical original but has only just made it to Europe.

At the 1963 New York revival Richard Rodgers proudly announced that only one line in the entire play is taken from Shakespeare.

To give the author the credit (fair is fair) Jimmy Savo, one of the two Dromios persecuted by a shrew of a wife in the original production, had beamingly added the name of the immortal bard, presumably intended as a semi-literary gag.

The reason why the Comedy of Errors was chosen was, according to Rodgers, personal. The song-writer's younger brother, Teddy Hart, had always been confused with Jimmy Savo (both of them were gifted comedians).

What was more natural than to cast them as twin brothers, cheerful identical Dromios serving identical twin masters and continually mistaken for each other even by their own wives (which is saying something)?

As there is virtually no limit to casting possibilities in the United States finding virtually identical Antipholuses, one from Ephesus and one from Syracuse (separated by a shipwreck), will not have presented much of a problem.

So the comedy of errors will doubtless have been a success in the original production, the combination of imaginary and actual unfaithfulness robbed of the poetry and double-entendre of the original but set to music (the original calls to mind the Amphitryon myth).

The Pforzheim directors Jens Scholkmann and Werner Woess were not so fortunate in their choice of casting for the German version by the new manager Heiner Bruns.

In the first European production the two Antipholus brothers Karl-Heinz Wagner and Wilfried Gronau differ so such in appearance, voice and manners that it is hard to visualise the one being mistaken for the other.

The same is true of the two Dromios, Bernd Kranz and Jo Kärn, who are so unlike that they do not even resemble one another at the level of servants.

The director has found a solution to the problem in intensifying the turbulence, in playing unleashed theatre. It takes considerable artistry but the handicaps have been overcome.

Wolfgang A. Peters

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 December 1971)



Scene from *Dance of Death* (Photo: Ilse Buhs)

Strindberg's *Dance of Death* in West Berlin

Sweden's turn-of-the-century Dance Death, remodelled for this day a age as *Play Strindberg* by Dürrenmatt, been produced in the original version West Berlin's *Schlosspark-Theater* by R dolf Noelte. There have been few cuts the two parts of the *Dance of Death*, wh lasts three hours.

Noelte's version provides all seven tors, both young and old, with su dramatic opportunity that one wonde why Ernst Schröder, Gisela Peltzer a Lothar Blumhagen left him in the lurch the end of October.

Strindberg's gruesome analysis of marriage proceeds slowly and toneless like slow-motion vivisection.

Edgar and Alice's daughter Judith one another for 25 years, shut off fro the outside world, see one another at the end of their duel. Edgar faces death a Alice hopes to be able to elope with Ku their joint friend. But nothing happe and next to nothing changes in the cou of six scenes.

Edgar and Alice's daugther Judith ments Kurt's son Allan in hatred that enjoys every bit as much as her pare do — until Edgar dies. Then Alice deprived of their victim, is unable to c on.

Noelte's courage in compressing t orgy of love and hatred into appar quiet and almost phlegmatic moveme calls for the rhythm of Russian tragic edies.

Jürgen Rose's sets underlines the *Ch ry Garden* atmosphere, intermingled w Edvard Munch. The middle-class liv room leading up to a window with its door and the hanging lamp effect a penitentiary of constant fear.

In it Bernhard Minetti as the self-as ed yet anxious Edgar and Elfri Rückert as the jaded and embittered Al prowl round one another.

Judith (Helga Anders), a pert bit piece, makes mincemeat of her ador Allan (Marcel Werner) and Kurt (Wilhe Borchert), who once approved of t hellish marriage, is also subject to t absurd spell.

Productions of Strindberg's *Dance Death* and Albee's *Who's Afraid Virginia Woolf?* have invariably shou out the misery at their audiences.

In this production the audience slowly and quietly involved in the vici circle by means of monotony. A grandi concept.

Ilse Urbach

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 16 December 19

■ LITERATURE

Publishers cast about them for a profitable bestseller

Kieler Nachrichten

A bestseller to match the success of Hildegard Knef's memoirs *Der geschenkte Gaul* (The gift horse) last year has not been forthcoming this year. None of the books issued this autumn has earnt itself the kind of reputation that makes books go like hot cakes, none has become the book that one "simply must have read".

1971 has not produced such a world-beater as the Knef memoirs or, in the previous year, Mario Puzo's "Godfather" or Hailey's "Airport". For those who wanted to give a book as their 1971 Christmas present a long discussion with the expert in the bookshop was necessary.

But autumn on the book market began with a number of surprises. Shortly before the Frankfurt Book Fair, when experts in this branch had drawn up in secrecy their lists for the Christmas trade the little-known and unsung publishing house of Hase and Köhler brought out the memoirs of General Gehlen *Der Dienst* (The service).

Then there was the television quiz show appearance of Esther Vilar, which made her book *Der dressierte Mann* the centre of conversation, although this was first published back in the spring and hardly caused a ripple.

Finally Langen Müller Verlag caused a sensation with a 100,000 printing of the controversial Alexander Solzhenitsyn book *August 1914*.

Nevertheless there was no chance of this novel by the Russian author, who achieved fame with his "Cancer Ward", becoming a Yuletide bestseller after a legal decision preventing distribution had meant that many bookshops did not have a copy in stock.

Back in the bestseller lists is Erich von Däniken — who received remission on his sentence in a Swiss gaol — with his *Zurück zu den Sternen* (Back to the stars). This was backed by a series of lectures throughout this country.

While entertainment literature — known in the jargon of the business as fiction — has been without a definite bestseller and unproblematical "self-starter", purchasers of non-fiction books on certain themes have had a clear idea of what they wanted.

Almost without any advice from the salesmen they chose from four books: Mehnert's "China After the Storm", Gehlen's "Der Dienst", Mann's "Wallenstein" and Vilar's "Dressierter Mann". This is a continuation of the trend towards non-fiction.

While the people who draw up the bestseller lists are still at loggerheads whether the memoirs of actors and filmstars should be included under *belles lettres* or non-fiction, questions raised by a number of customers have shown that the Knef memoirs, for instance, have attracted mainly the non-fiction clientele to the cash desk.

Apart from the obligatory glance at the list of bestsellers it is worthwhile looking at those books that do not appear, the "secret" bestsellers. In the monthly statistics issued by the Stuttgart book wholesalers Umbreit one of the long-term bestsellers is *Duden Orthography*, which is in the number one spot.

This is followed by a small cookery book with casserole recipes and the Langenscheidt pocket English dictionary.

It is only from the fourth position down that Umbreit mentions entertainment literature, Preußler's story of the robber Hotzenplotz and Hildegard Knef's *Horse*.

Of the 26 books most in demand only three are fiction for adults: Simmel's *Und Jimmy ging zum Regenbogen*, *Das neue Eugen Roth Buch* and the Knef memoirs.

For children the top sellers are *Hotzenplotz*, Preußler's *Kleine Hexe* (Little witch), Astrid Lindgren's *Pippi Langstrumpf* and Erich Kästner's *Emil and the Detectives*.

All other long-term top sellers are non-fiction: Stuber *Ich helfe dir kochen* (I'll help you cook), *Das neue Universum*, *Duden School Lexicon*, *Knaur's A to Z Lexicon*, *Brockhaus' Popular Lexicon*, *Knaur's Junior Lexicon*, the *Shell Motoring Atlas*, *Langenscheidt's Pocket French Dictionary*, *Adams Küche scharf gewürzt* (... spicy cooking), *Wie funktioniert das?* (How it works), *Das will ich wissen* (I want to know), *Brehms Animal Stories*, *Das große Jugendbuch* and *Durch die weite Welt* (Around this big world).

Klaus Göppert

(Kieler Nachrichten, 15 December 1971)

Out-spoken anti-women's lib authoress gives a one-man show

Since she appeared on the television quiz programme *Wünsch dir was* (The choice is yours) Esther Vilar has become a popular authoress with her self-opinionated anti-women's-lib book. *Der dressierte Mann* (The well-trained man). The book has suddenly achieved 200,000 sales and the price is about to be bumped up.

Her lecture and discussion evening at a theatre was a sell-out. In the foyer her book went like hot cakes, bought almost exclusively by men with a wry grin on their faces, who obviously decided they have solved the problem of what to give the missus for Christmas!

At the lecture and discussion evening there was a notable absence of housewives. They are so embittered about Esther Vilar they stayed away. And so the battlefield of discussion was free for a few sociology students who found social criticism lacking in *Der dressierte Mann* and one or two elderly women who thought that the female soul on the one

Münchner Merkur

hand and the male pimps on the other had been given short shrift, not to mention a few brave young women who are not prepared to blame men entirely for childbirth, and yet who are not prepared to forego having children for the sake of developing their personality.

Esther Vilar herself rolled up in a pert black getup with spats and a satchel, in no way shunning the female masquerade she pillories, and read her scurrilous, simple writings about intelligent and beautiful males who make their desire to be captive an object for exploitation by that stupid commodity, the woman.

Her reading was gay and managed to cover up the unrealistic, cliché-ridden nature of her misguided text book.

One listened with great amusement to her expounding about the ruthless female liontamers who drive that noble beast male man into the circus ring of forced labour, while they luxuriate in the comfort of womanhood in their comfortable suburban villas (Esther Vilar's favourite accommodation) and the emancipated kind who are scarcely one jot better because they have retained a vestige of their own intelligence, because their husband is a failure, because they look like the back of a bus, or because they have their own professional interests which keep them from hooking a man to work as their slave.

The extremely fair and reasonable discussion partners found much food for thought in what she said, but were not completely sold on it. One man who treated the evening seriously called Esther Vilar's performance "a sociological cabaret satirising the American woman of the fifties". A woman sociologist waved her thesis about the work of women in parliament and others pointed out the plight of women caught up in factory work or housework.

One mother of three children who was forced to go out to work complained that it was impossible for her husband to find a suitable half-day job.

Erich Kuby, an observer from *Stern* felt the lack of a concept that was at least in the back of the authoress' mind, be it of a sociological, psychological or political nature.



Esther Vilar
(Photo: Conti-Press)

But other attacks launched against this outspoken authoress were countered firmly by her. She siad she had not set out to help people arrange their own lives, but had simply wanted to give food for thought. But, she said, to win over just two or three people to her concept, which was there for the asking, would mean setting up a new system of captivity.

The theme as a whole got people thinking and in this form did provide at least an intelligent and entertaining game.

Effi Horn

(Münchner Merkur, 22 December 1971)

Museum's social role to be improved

For the fourth time the Folkwang Museum in Essen was the scene of an international museum seminar organised by the West German Unesco Commission. At the previous seminars the subjects discussed were public work and museums (1963) and the work of the mass media film (1966) and television (1969) in connection with museums.

This year the theme was "Praxis der Museumsdidaktik". Taking part and exchanging experiences were some forty curators and officials from museums of art, art history, science and technology in Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Poland and the Federal Republic. They worked on the first situation report on pedagogic activities in practical museum work.

Virtually unanimous agreement was reached on the point that the future of the educative work of museums lies in the application of audio-visual aids.

Traditional educational methods within the museum, such as guided tours and push-button commentaries would not be given up entirely, but would be relegated to a secondary role and subordinated to new methods of information dissemination such as film and television and special lighting effects.

A heated discussion broke out when the question of whether the individual museum visitor or the group should be given preferential treatment was discussed. Wide differences of opinion were noted on this point.

The problem of looking after individuals and groups is something in which each case should be judged on its own merits, according to the majority of opinions expressed on this occasion. There are too many aspects for any general ruling to be given, for instance the situation of the museum, the type of person that visited it, the scope and type of the material on show and the like.

Unanimity was reached on the matter of whether more attention should be given to young visitors and children. Museum curators realise that now is the time to take care of tomorrow's adult visitors.

In many places there has been a radical change in the type of visitor to a museum. It was noted with surprise that the Folkwang Museum was no longer an establishment for the older generation. It is now a meeting place for younger people.

According to an investigation carried out there one visitor in five in the fourteen to twenty age group. While about one third of the population of Essen — excluding children under fourteen — is under the age of thirty, more than half of the visitors to the Folkwang Museum is under thirty. As many as half of the women visitors are under the age of 25.

The three Stockholm Museums, the National Museum, the Modern Museum and the East Asian Museum, all of which are open daily from midday till ten at night can all be described as progressive and excellent in the way they cater for young people, as well as their general public relations work.

For instance a visit to the National Museum is compulsory for children who have passed the fifth school year. Family Sundays have been organised offering a special programme between the hours of 11am and 5pm with conducted tours, film and puppet shows and entertainments.

In the Modern Museum there is a large children's workshop, where the kids can play around with all kinds of materials,

Klaus Morgenstern

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 December 1971)

■ THE SCIENCES

Kepler – astronomer and mathematician was born 400 years ago in Württemberg

Four-hundred years ago, on 27 December 1571, Johann Kepler was born in Weil, Württemberg. He originated three famous laws of astronomy and dreamt of space travel. Kepler was a decisive influence on modern natural science.

Mathematician and astronomer Johann Kepler has little in common with the typical modern natural scientist and the modern inventor. His background, pursuits, preceptors and dates mark him out as more of a theologian.

His researches were after all a search for proof that God existed in a world gone mad. His life was devoted to the search for "The Harmony of the World", a title he gave to one of his major works.

Or as Heisenberg said of him: "The natural sciences are to him . . . a means of elevating the spirit, a way, a comfort, a solace to be found in studying the eternal perfection of Creation."

Science, which for Kepler was a one-way street, covered by a quick glance, has since branched out in many directions. What he achieved has been taken up by many of the branches of modern science of the most diverse kind. They have developed what he started. His personality can only be understood against his historical background.

He was born at a time when religious strife was rampant and in an age when natural sciences were just achieving emancipation from theology and philosophy.

Unlike his contemporary Galileo, Kepler was not threatened by religious intolerance so much on account of his researches, but because of his professed religion. In the small Württemberg town of Weil Kepler was baptised as a Catholic and brought up as a Protestant.

His father was often away for long periods on war service and was finally killed on the field of battle. First of all his mother had lived with her in-laws, but they treated her so badly that later she followed her husband.

Despite the unsteady life his parents led it was from them that Johann first learnt to study the stars. He soon showed typically Swabian characteristics – dabbling in the religious, but also in practical matters.

At the famous boarding schools in Adelberg and Maulbronn he was groomed for university. His first years in Tübingen were spent on a kind of general studies with the emphasis on philosophy and poetry.

Professor Michael Mästlin who taught mathematics and astronomy had a decisive influence on the student Kepler. In 1951 the professor advised him to go to Graz and take up the career of mathematics teacher instead of beginning to study theology.

Tübingen was a famous school of Protestant theology, but also a hotbed of intolerance and orthodoxy. Professor Mästlin had realised that Kepler was not cut out to follow any form of conformist thought.

A year later Johann Kepler wrote from Graz to Professor Mästlin: "I wanted to become a theologian and for a long time I was sorely troubled. Now you can see how my efforts have helped to praise God's name through astronomy."

In Graz Kepler took on the additional job of land surveyor, which meant he had to take measurements on the land and also publish an almanac with astrological predictions.

He enjoyed friendly competition with the Catholic high school and the Jesuit university until the counter-reformation set in with full force and this already famous scholar had to go on his travels again.

Kepler had a family in Graz and had acquired an estate. He had to leave everything behind him. But in Prague; as the colleague, and soon after successor, of Tycho de Brahe, he found an oasis of tolerance.

At the court of Emperor Rudolf II the arts and sciences flourished. But in the long run Rudolf was unable to stem the tide of history and he was deposed.

Kepler kept his job, but there was such interference with his work that, following the death of his wife, he took up a similar position in Linz to the one he had held in Graz.

Once again he found himself persecuted by Protestant theologians of the Tübingen school who considered him a secret Calvinist. He was not allowed to take evening meals with them, but he was able to carry on his work for a few years and make another marriage.

In 1626 he was driven out by the Upper Austrian peasant war. He entered the service of Wallenstein at Sagan. The warrior, who believed in astrology, wanted Kepler to map out the course of the planets for his astrologers.

When Kepler heard that Emperor Ferdinand II was holding a parliament in Regensburg he set out for there hoping to collect some old debts. On the way he was taken ill and died soon after on 15 November 1630.

The Emperor sent him a sum of money to his sick bed, but never repaid the debts to Kepler nor his widow who died in great poverty.

For posterity, reading about him in encyclopaedias, there remain the great achievements of Kepler's life amid the constant threat of poverty, sickness and intolerance. Most famous of his works are the astronomical laws with which he corrected the system of Copernicus, stating that the sun was not at the centre of the planets' orbit and describing the orbits as ellipses around the luminary.

The second law stated that the planets do not always move at the same speed, but that their speed increases the nearer the sun they move. "Every planet moves so that the radius vector sweeps over equal areas in equal intervals of time."

This law provided the basis for Newton's work.

The third law correlates the time taken by the planets to orbit round the sun and their distances from the sun. "The squares of the periods of any two planets are to each other as the cubes of their respective mean distances from the sun."

Kepler's astronomical research led to the prediction of comets and eclipses. He also considered the question of the exact date of Christ's birth, was the first to use the expression satellites and dreamt of space travel: "Provide ships and sails capable of navigating the air of Heaven and men will come who are not afraid to fly so far."

One major work that Tycho de Brahe began and which was finally published in Ulm in 1627 was the *Tabulae Rudolphinae*, the planetary tables. In order to compile these enormous tables it was not only necessary for Kepler to discover his planetary laws and make many observations, but he also used the newly discovered logarithms, invented by Naper and improved by Kepler for his own purposes.



Johann Kepler
(Photo: Staatsbibliothek Berlin)

For centuries these tables were absolutely essential especially for navigation.

In the field of optics he improved the telescope which had been invented shortly beforehand and made a basic form of telephoto lens. His logarithms provided the basis of the first calculating machine. He invented the tooth-cog pump and a system for measuring the contents of vats.

It was typical of his attitude as a scientist that he came out in favour of the Gregorian calendar, then being propagated by the Pope, in opposition to the Protestant theologians. Kepler was called to the parliament in 1613 to give his expert opinion on this matter.

Some years later the man we think of as the originator of space travel, at least in theory, had to use all his authority to prevent his mother being burnt as a witch!

Dr Lothar Sträter

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 18 December 1971)

Meteor completes its 25th voyage of discovery

The American continent was indeed once attached to the west coast of Africa. On the coast where the breach occurred erosion is taking place and there is a move to the west as a result of landslides.

This process is happening more slowly on the northern Sahara coast than on the tropical coast of Senegal.

These are the findings recently published in Hamburg by the team of scientists on board the West German research ship *Meteor* in the report on the 25th voyage of the *Meteor* since the ship was taken into service in 1964.

The crew of the *Meteor*, blessed with unusually kind weather conditions had been busy testing the ocean floor of the west African coast with several new pieces of equipment seismologically and geochemically.

A newly developed air cannon that can fire once every eight seconds was used to carry out seismic tests under the seabed. In all 175,000 shots were fired and the seabed was tested to a depth of 3,000 meters. These tests made it possible for the scientists to follow the outline of the west coast of Africa, from which the American continent broke away.

At any rate the separation of the one continent from the other was apparently much more complicated than previously supposed. The continental shelf did not come to rest until the most recent period of Earth's history.

While at many spots the deposits over the basalt layer are more than 3,000 metres thick at other spots sediment was collected from the seabed that was 20 to 30 million years old.

Scientists conclude, therefore, that the more recent deposits slithered down into the ocean or were swept away on the tide. In normal circumstances a layer ten centimetres thick is deposited on the seabed every thousand years.

Some of the total of more than 250 samples collected were brought to light with the aid of a new tool known as a vibration hammer.

The scientists hope that from the sediment samples obtained from the bottom of the sea they will with the aid of palaeontological methods get a clue to the story of these deposits and hence probably a picture of the climatic development in North Africa during the Ice Age.

The Sahara for instance does not show any relics of prehistoric ages from which such questions could be answered. But the sediment that is carried into the sea by wind and rivers can give definite clues to climatic conditions in eras that can be pinpointed fairly accurately. But evaluating this material is likely to take years.

Thanks to samples from the seabed scientists on board *Meteor* have for the first time been able to draw up a theory about the origins of the manganese knolls on the continental shelf.

They are now certain that the manganese came from the depths where it was chemically activated and rose to the higher strata. The chemical process takes place about twenty to thirty centimetres below the seabed under the influence of the salt water.

Molecules then join together in lumps as big as peas or potatoes with an extraordinarily high concentration of metals that are of interest to industry.

Professor Eugen Seibold, the scientific coordinator of the voyage of research was not prepared to say whether the formation of the manganese knolls in the ocean, in the Pacific for example, happened along the same lines as on the African continental shelf.

One other discovery made quite by accident by the *Meteor* was when it was taking readings north-west of Dakar and came across a previously unknown submarine mountain, which is presumably volcanic in origin.

Meteor is equipped with an extremely accurate satellite navigation system by means of which a number of incorrect pieces of information on the nautical maps can be corrected.

Including this jubilee 25th voyage *Meteor* has covered 210,000 nautical miles to date on its voyages of discovery. This is approximately ten times around the world. About 1,000 scientists from 15 different institutes, including more than fifty researchers from 44 institutes abroad have worked with the equipment on the 2,615 ton ship.

Meteor is owned by the German Oceanographical Institute and is run in conjunction with the German Research Association.

Captain Ernst-Walter Lemke has been in command on almost all voyages. *Meteor's* next voyage is on 19 January 1972 together with *Planet*. It will be used mainly for biological research off the west coast of Africa.

Klaus Müller

(Die Welt, 16 December 1971)

■ EDUCATION

Girl students' ambition is still given too little impetus

"Girls are wasting their time staying on at school and going to university. They're bound to get married anyway." This oft-expressed point of view has helped to block the way to a better education and a satisfactory job for any number of women.

Although more than a half of the women between the ages of fifteen and 45 in this country today are out at work the image of the modern woman is still as a housewife and mother. Girls who are able to study are still in the minority and still felt not to fit into the picture of womankind.

Even today many tutors and lecturers feel that university is little more for the average girl than a good marriage market! The theory of the natural inferiority of the woman has been replaced by the general idea that the reason why women fail to excel in certain fields is because they are not so well educated as men.

Nevertheless male students in study groups still tend to delegate the paperwork to girls and whenever something goes wrong in their calculations to blame it on the failings of the sex.

The critical attitude of teachers and colleagues increases the awareness of the conflict of roles which confronts many girl students.

On the one hand society expects a woman to carry out her role as housewife and childbearer and find satisfaction in this. On the other hand study involves one hundred per cent involvement: Intelligent girls who have a genuine interest in studying may be put off the idea by the fear of being dubbed a bluestocking.

If only women could escape from the traditional image of housewife and mother it should be possible for them to marry and combine their function as a woman and as a student. But in the immediate future girls will still be faced with the alternative of becoming a wife or a career girl. The present social setup makes it impossible to change this "dualism of aims in life".

The outcome of this conflict of roles is often a lack of motivation for study. When difficulties arise girls are only too quick to seize the opportunity of avoiding the conflict and accept the traditional role assigned to them.

Study is then only a transitional period in qhich general education is carried further. In these circumstances the girl feels no pressure to improve her economic situation which is always a major factor in making a young man study.

Only about one in three students in West Germany is a girl. They are not equally spread over the various disciplines but tend to concentrate on the arts side. In the arts more than half the students are of the fair sex, but in nearly all other disciplines there is a dearth of women students.

The surplus of women on the arts side may be because the linguistic and literary subjects on this side correspond more to the image of the woman.

But it is more likely that women choose the arts because these subjects are more useful for a future career in the teaching profession. And teaching is a job that a woman can still carry out if she has a family.

Many female students who planned originally to take the State examination decide in the course of their studies to study to be a teacher at a *Realschule* largely because this only involves six semesters of study.

Statistics throw up another indication of the existence of this problem. Out of every ten male students seven complete their course and examination successfully. Of ten women students only five graduate.

Helga Montag

(Handelsblatt, 21 December 1971)

Music grants for study abroad

West German music students who will be taking part in internationally recognised music courses in Europe next summer will for the first time be able to look forward to receiving grants, according to the *Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst* (DAAD the German Academic Exchange Service).

DAAD says that any music student in this country who has already completed two semesters will be eligible. The amount awarded, DAAD states, will depend on the conditions prevailing in the country where the course is being held. The grants are to cover both academic fees and living costs.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 9 December 1971)

Plan to spot high IQs early

Following several years of preparatory work the *Studienstiftung* (studies foundation), with the support of the Founders Association for the Sciences, has set up an institute for research into natural talents, which will be affiliated to the central secretariat of the studies foundation.

Its work will include taking advantage of international IQ research for the Federal Republic, carrying out its own survey and research projects into ways and means of stimulating talented minds to greater productivity and developing methods of selection by means of which talents can be recognised at an early stage and given all the support and encouragement required.

This latter function will receive special attention in view of the recognised need for controlled promotion of up-and-coming scientific minds. The institute will be able to take advantage of the unique archives belonging to the studies foundation. These archives, the only library of the kind in Europe, contain data of the life, education and profession of about 8,000 former students at the *Studienstiftung*.

These are listed in such a way that for every student the social, economic, family and educational background can be compared and correlated.

In an experiment carried out last year and this about 3,000 high-school pupils in their final year carried out a test which took no account of any specialised knowledge they may have had. Three-hundred were accepted into a special promotional scheme.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 December 1971)

■ HOME SCENE

Alcohol is still the main drug problem in this country

My worst experience was on a new year's eve when I'd had a particularly heavy booze-up. I had to cross a road and fell flat – right in front of a tram. Suddenly it all went blank and I got a touch of the DTs. Then there was the policeman and before I knew it I was peeing all over him. Silly devil just stood there. Next morning a couple of mates came and collected me and suggested going for another booze. There I was again, drinking, drinking, drinking."

The young man who said this was all of twenty-four years old. He is sick. An alcoholic. Long before he wound up in a clinic for curing alcoholics he was a bricklayer, but gradually his usefulness on the building sites declined and he ended up just doing odd jobs around the site.

He is one of fifty patients at a so-called open treatment centre for alcoholics. There are in all twenty such hospitals in the Federal Republic. This figure is small compared with the 600,000 alcohol addicts registered here, most of whom have to be treated in prisons or in ordinary mental hospitals where they cannot be given the proper attention. Mixing alcoholics with mental cases and criminals has about the same success as applying this kind of treatment to drug addicts – nil.

In the light of this the drying-out home Michaelshof near Kirchheimbolanden, a dreary village in the Palatinate, is an exemplary and thus far from typical case.

It is the only hospital devoted to the care of young alcoholics of whom there are many more than the young junkies who are constantly making headlines. Fifty thousand known young alcoholics, a figure that would be swelled if all young victims of the demon drink were registered.

And many of them are under seventeen years of age, according to the "Munich Medical Weekly".

Michaelshof offers all kinds of occupational therapy, leisure-time pursuits and group therapy for the young alcoholic, but only one in a thousand of this tragic group can be treated there. The lucky ones enjoy facilities including a minigolf course, workshops and common rooms.

There are twenty therapists, social workers and group leaders who discuss with the young alcoholic his problems and why he decided to volunteer to come to Michaelshof. They aim to cure him to such an extent that he will remain TT all his life, and that in just six months of treatment.

And teetotal it must be – for alcoholics are sick people. Just one drop of alcohol will set them off along the primrose path again.

Said Günter Kreiner, one of the therapists at Michaelshof: "It is necessary to revalue the personality of the alcoholic again after he has plumbed the depths. A major part of the treatment involves private talks. Then the addict is given group therapy to help bring him back into society. This all aims at getting alcoholics out in the world again, able to stand on their own two feet without alcohol as a crutch."

Group therapy is a relatively new method of treatment and seems to promise high hopes of success. The function of the therapist is to explain to the group the kind of processes that are going on inside them.

It has been proved that the few drying-out centres at present in existence in this country have come the closest to achieving the aim of sending the alcoholic outside with no need for alcohol.

After such a course of treatment thirty per cent of patients will find they can live without drink, thirty will be socially improved, but will occasionally revert to their old habit. A further thirty will be discharged as "uncured". The remaining ten per cent escape the statistician, but it seems likely that they will revert to drinking.

"The essential factor in alcoholism is addiction," says Dr Klaus Wanke from the Psychiatric Clinic in Frankfurt. "This is the tendency of human beings in certain situations to react by taking to an excess. In the case of an alcoholic there is a loss of control when he starts drinking. He becomes incapable of controlling how much alcohol he takes in once he starts. So he drinks and drinks."

This loss of control marks off the alcoholic from the ordinary heavy drinker who regularly knocks back large quantities. Dr Wanke speaks of people who drink to excess from habit, for instance the man who sits down night after night in front of the television and drinks beer or spirits.

Alcohol is a legally approved drug. Everyone has an equal opportunity to get his hands on schnaps, wine or beer. But medical science has not yet been able to say why certain people become alcoholics and others do not.

Without doubt it is not entirely physical reasons that are the cause. Proof of this comes from the breakdown of professions of male alcoholics. Almost eighty per cent of them are labourers, assistants, artisans and the unemployed.

And in the case of the 100,000 registered women alcoholics in the Federal Republic social factors such as loneliness are the main reason for drinking themselves into a stupor.

The woman alcoholic is punished even more severly by society than the man. A boozed woman does not conform to the ideal picture of feminine modesty. Thus the vicious circle is completed and she is driven ever deeper into loneliness and despair.

It is nearly always social factors that start the alcoholic off along the path to ruin. Sometimes it is a person who fears for his very existence who seeks solace in the bottle. It is not love that is the bread of the poor, but fusel oil.

Sometimes a person turns to drink because he feels he is one of the underprivileged in a society where only the privileged count. Boredom and a lack of imagination lead to prosperity boozing and the habitual boozing of the man who cannot watch TV without a drink in his hand. Or it may be a lack of personality and an inability to make the necessary adjustments to the pressures of the business world.

The vicious circle is quickly closed. Drinking leads to inefficiency, which leads a man to worrying about whether he will keep his job, which leads to heavier drinking and greater inefficiency, to loss of his job and even heavier drinking.

Other symptoms of this social disease are debts, crimes, leaving bars without paying and breaking into public houses. The motive behind all these actions is to get at drink.

Professor Stefan Wieser from the Bremen Psychiatric Clinic said: "Alcoholism more than any other disease I know affects the family, jobs and society."

One in five divorces were brought on by one partner drinking to excess.

Five thousand people die on the roads every year directly or indirectly due to drink.

Almost half the crimes that came before Munich Juvenile Court were committed under the influence of alcohol.

At the Frankfurt drugs trial Professor Heinz Dietrich stated with resignation that the greatest addiction problem in this country is still the legalised drug, alcohol.

The total sum spent on alcoholic beverages in this country this year will be something in the region of 23,000,000,000 Marks! The State cashes in to the tune of 3,500 million Marks in alcohol taxes.

But despite the legal and aggressive campaign to boost the sales of alcohol, which Dr Wanke claims young people are particularly susceptible to because of the idea of manliness that is always associated with drinking the massive revenue from alcohol will not be used to help in curing addicts.

This is in spite of the fact that it is now known that treatment in a modern drying-out centre is the only way to cure people who are hooked on alcohol.

Even after treatment at one of the centres it is important for a cured alcoholic to go to a home where he can make the transition between the enclosed society of the clinic and the harsh world he has tried to escape through alcohol. He needs to make the contact of people in a similar position to himself and trained specialists with an understanding of his problems.

But now as in the past the alcoholic cannot hope for State help. He must turn to private organisations and charitable societies. He is forced to seek help from the Good Templars, the Blue Cross and AA.

The Good Templars make their patients swear a vow to give up drink once and for all, whether they are alcoholics or not; the Blue Cross is a Christian organisation.

Perhaps the most successful organisation of all, due to the fact that it does not preach or try to indoctrinate its followers, is AA, alcoholics anonymous. This is a society composed entirely of people who have the disease of alcoholism and have tried to shake it off. They address each other only by Christian name.

After six months in a drying-out clinic the former alcoholic is recommended to seek the help of the AA. It is in this period that many of them learn for the first time to talk about themselves, their problems and their sickness.

But for each of them a period in a treatment centre is still an artificial world, however good it may be. When the former alcoholic gets out into the real world there is no longer anyone who is prepared to talk sympathetically with him and to bother with him.

"This is the second time I've been in a home. After the first time I thought I'd got the monkey off my back. And then I went back to the old pub, met my old cronies and studiously drank Coke. Somehow, although this didn't bother me, it bothered them. They started pulling my leg, calling me names. One of them slipped cognac in my glass and then it started all over again.

"I woke up next morning at five with my hands trembling. There was a bottle of Jägermeister beside my bed. I just grabbed it and drank and drank... Next time I'm cured I'll go to another town."

All alcoholics know the gutter. They have all experienced the moment of extreme mental and moral torment when they have been at their lowest. They know delirium and complete loss of consciousness. The moment when "it all went black".

It has been proved that the stronger the sense of demoralisation is when the alcoholic is in the gutter the better the chances of curing him.

But for any real impression to be made on this problem it is necessary for the organisations dealing with alcoholics to be given help. This costs money and the money must come from the alcohol tax.

The second essential factor for clearing up this problem is that society should accept the man or woman who was once an alcoholic.

And thirdly it depends on the alcoholics themselves, how much they are prepared to do to escape the destructive addiction, how far they feel the disease to be eating away at them – and this is a sensation that the alcoholic only feels "when you are so sick of your rotten self that you feel like kicking yourself up the arse."

Christopher Sommerkorn

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 18 December 1971)

Beer is main offender behind drunken driving

Beer is not only a popular drink in this country – perhaps because of its very popularity it is the chief sinner in drink-and-driving offences, according to a survey carried out on 6,188 reports in which traffic offenders had been asked what kind of alcoholic beverage they had imbibed.

In 44.8 per cent of cases beer had been the only alcoholic drink consumed or the main culprit in making the motorist one over the eight.

In about thirty per cent of cases beer had been consumed in conjunction with spirits. In 12.4 per cent of cases the offending motorist claimed that he had drunk only the hard stuff. The investigations were carried out in and around Hamburg, Frankfurt and Mainz.

At Hamburg University under the guidance of Dr Brinkmann 4,268 reports dating from 1968 and 1969 were sifted. In these cases beer was the offending drink 45.9 per cent of the time. Beer in conjunction with spirits made up another 34.2 per cent of cases, so that beer was at least partly responsible in over four out of five cases examined.

Those who think that the people down Frankfurt way are rather partial to a drop of non-alcoholic cyder had better think again. Beer is again the chief menace on the roads, being responsible for 52 per cent of drunken driving cases. Beer plus spirits makes up another 26 per cent and so the total is 78 per cent. The figures for Frankfurt are based on an examination of 600 cases from 1970/71 under the guidance of Professor Luff.

Even in the Rheinhessen area, noted for its wines, wine is only responsible for drunken driving in 12.6 per cent of cases. Beer corners 54 per cent of this market (37.8 % alone and 16.2 % in conjunction with spirits).

Hard liquor alone was responsible for 11.7 per cent of the arrests checked in Hamburg, only 5.6 per cent in Frankfurt and as many as 17.7 per cent of cases in Mainz.

In Mainz more often than in the other cities wine and spirits are mixed. This figure and the others for Mainz come from a survey compiled by Professor Leithoff on 1,320 reports.

All in all beer is the chief source of drunkenness behind the wheel, making up about half the cases on its own and three-quarters when its effect in conjunction with spirits is considered.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 December 1971)

■ SPORT

Basketball – a game with romantic associations



First and only love, the game played in the back yard, an inexorable professional game, a fascinating display of speed of movement – there can hardly be a game to equal basketball for romantic associations.

Willie Hall, Pete Axthelm and Theodor Schober are not alone in sharing these sentiments. A hundred million people all over the world play basketball, one person in thirty-five. In this country only one in 1,549 is a basketball adept.

The game was invented by an American college professor by the name of James Naismith in 1891. The rules were standardised three years later.

Several thousand years ago, though, the Incas, Mayas and Aztecs played a game in which a ball was thrown through a ring or hole high up in the wall.

This game was of religious significance, corresponding either to the triumph of the Sun (the ball) over darkness or to a fertility rite, the ball and the ring signifying procreation.

Basketball continues to bear fruit. In France there are a number of basketball professionals, although they do not earn all that much. More than fifty American professionals have earned their living in France.

In Italy large firms finance basketball teams for publicity purposes. In the Eastern Bloc the State guarantees the livelihood of top-light basketball players.

Professional leagues in the United States have an annual turnover of millions of dollars. Alongside American football basketball is the leading professional sport. The peak earner is Lew Alcindor of the Milwaukee Bucks who can claim to have earned as much from sport as Cassius Clay.

So basketball can make you a millionaire in the United States. In this country it has, until recently, been something of a problem even though it is gaining in popularity.

The number of playing members of clubs affiliated to the Federal Republic Basketball Association has increased by leaps and bounds from 30,000 to 40,000 and bearing in mind the Olympic publicity is likely to increase to 50,000 in the none too distant future.

The ancient game of the Incas and the Aztecs will for the most part be publicised in Munich by the Eastern Bloc teams and America's college boys, neither of whom have ever let anyone else have a look-in at the medal scene.

Starting in 1904 and without interruption since 1936 the American amateurs (though at college they are professionally trained) have scooped the Olympic gold medals.

Munich has given basketball in this country an added fillip, however. Frankfurt mail-order magnate and Olympic show-jumping gold medallist Josef Neckermann's Sports Aid Foundation is footing the bill and the post of chief coach is going at 2,500 Marks a month.

From 15 September 1968 to the end of 1970 this was the amount earned as chief coach by 47-year-old Dr Miroslaw Kriz of Prague.

He certainly made his mark and when he was ordered home in breach of contract by the Czech government it was rumoured that the top flight of basketball players in this country had improved to such an extent that East Berlin had been alarmed and called on Prague to practise socialist solidarity and recall the man responsible.

At all events Theodor Schober, 43, then became chief coach. "No one else wanted to take on the job," he says. At the time he coached basketball and volleyball trainers at Mainz University and had special reasons for being prepared to take on the post.

"Having given up coaching Mainz University Club I no longer had club affiliations," he explains, "and was interested in working at the very top."

At the same time he wondered whether there was any truth in the claim that foreigners were better at the job. Foreign coaches certainly call the tune at the top in this country, giving rise to suspicions that the natives are not up to the task.

Schober is now trying to prove the contrary. He admits that Miroslaw Kriz, his predecessor, achieved noteworthy successes and concedes that he owes the basic and outlines of his work to the Czech doctor of basketball.

"But," he maintains, "I have slipped into a training suit that was not tailor-made for me."

This is less and less the case. Schober is now trying to find a golden mean midway between Kriz' ideas and his own. But he still has hurdles to scale. After the European championships in Essen he was at the receiving end of broadsides fired by Munich club officials. Even *Basketball*, the official magazine, had noted beforehand that at the high altitude training on Nebelhorn in August "discrepancies between players from the West and the South could hardly be overlooked." Rivalry and differing outlooks on the game are the reasons for this rift, which is one of the reasons why Schober plans to return to his old university post once the Olympics are over.

Two and a half thousand Marks a month, he adds, are not enough if there is to be no social security and he stands to forfeit his civil servant status as a university lecturer.

Schober has just started a training course in Heidelberg designed to sort out the sheep from the goats. In June he will be off to St Moritz with an eighteen-man Olympic team for altitude training.

Then there will be preparatory games, first against weaker teams, then gradually building up towards Olympic standards.

These, however, can at best apply to the opponents since Schober and his team stand not an earthly in Munich. "I reckon we ought to come tenth. A ninth place I would rate a major success," he comments.

By international standards this country's basketball players are lower middle-class. Yet Schober still feels that as far as their approach to the game is concerned his players rank among the best in competitive sport.

"It takes a lot to train twice a day four times a week with not even a hot evening meal," he says.

Thimm of Leverkusen, Geschwindner of Munich ("if only he would not go it alone to such an extent"), Keller of Leverkusen ("up to a point") and Uhlig of Osnabrück are the men Schober considers to be the backbone of the team.

With the right coach and training they could, he feels, reach the top. "Always providing," he adds, "that Germans are neither more stupid, smaller or lazier than anyone else."

They are certainly not more stupid. Three out of four Federal league players are either university students or graduates. And hard work is a quality for which the Germans are renowned.

Which leaves us with the height. Lew Alcindor is seven foot two and it takes a first-rate player to manage with a mere six feet. The average height is six foot five or six.

This country's Olympic team is off to high-altitude training camps and test games and chief coach Schober has told them that their target must be to do better than any German Olympic team before them.

Meanwhile a new means of aiding talented youngsters in being given serious consideration on the other side of the Atlantic: the use of growth hormones.

Ulfert Schröder

(Welt am Sonntag, 19 December 1971)

Basketball enthusiasts in action

(Photo: Horstmüller)

Aden	SA $ 0.05
Afghanistan	Af 10.—
Algeria	DA 0.60
Angola	Esc. 1.—
Argentina	$ m n 45.—
Australia	10 c.
Austria	S 3.—
Belgium	bfr 6.—
Bolivia	$ b 1.50
Brazil	N. Cr. $ 0.35
Bulgaria	Lev 0.05
Burma	K 0.60
Burundi	F. Bu. 10.—
Cambodia	R 4.40
Cameroun	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Canada	Can. $ —.20
Ceylon	cR —.60
Chile	Esc. 0.60
Colombia	col. $ 1.—
Congo (Brazzaville)	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Congo (Kinshasa)	Makuta 7.—
Costa Rica	C 0.85
Cuba	P 0.13
Cyprus	11 d
Czechoslovakia	Kcs 0.50
Dahomey	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Denmark	dkr 0.90
Dom. Rep.	RD $ 0.15
Ecuador	S 2.50
El Salvador	C 0.30
Ethiopia	Eth. $ 0.30
Fiji	11 d
Finland	fmk 0.50
Formosa	NT £ 5.—
France	FF 0.60
Gabon	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Gambia	11 d
Germany	DM 1.—
Ghana	cedi 0.12
Great Britain	5 p
Greece	Dr 4.—
Guatemala	Q 0.15
Guayana	BWI $ 0.20
Guinea	F.G. 30.—
Haiti	G 0.65
Honduras (Br.)	$ BH 0.20
Honduras	L 0.25
Hong Kong	HK $ 0.70
Hungary	Ft 1.—
Iceland	Kr 5.—
India	Rs 0.80
Indonesia	Rp. 15.—
Iran	Rl 10.—
Iraq	50 fils
Ireland	11 d
Israel	I £ 0.40
Italy	Lir. 80
Ivory Coast	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Jamaica	11 d
Japan	Yen 50
Jordan	50 fils
Kenya	EAs 0.25
Kuwait	50 fils
Laos	Kip 60.—
Lebanon	P 40.—
Liberia	Lib $ 0.15
Libya	50 Mills
Luxembourg	lfr 6
Madagascar	FM 30.—
Malawi	11 d
Malaysia	M. $ 0.40
Mali	FM 60.—
Mexico	$ 1.50
Morocco	DM —.65
Mozambique	Esc. 1.—
Nepal	Mohur 1.—
Netherlands	Hfl 0.50
Netherlands Antilles	G. ant 0.25
New Zealand	9 c.
Nicaragua	C 0.85
Niger	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Nigeria	11 d
Norway	nkr 0.90
Pakistan	Rs 0.60
Panama	B. 0.15
Paraguay	G. 15.—
Peru	S. 3.50
Philippines	P. phil 0.60
Poland	Zl. 0.50
Portugal	Esc. 1.—
Rhodesia	11 d
Ruanda	F. Rw 12.—
Rumania	Lau 0.50
Saudi Arabia	RL 0.60
Sweden	skr 0.60
Switzerland	FS 0.50
Senegal	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Sierra Leone	Le 0.10
Somalia	Sh So 0.90
South Africa	Rand 0.10
South Korea	Won 35.—
S. Viet Nam	V.N. $ 15.—
Spain	Pts 8.—
Sudan	PT 5.—
Syria	£ S 0.50
Tanzania	EAs 0.25
Thailand	B 3.—
Trinidad and Tobago	BWI $ 0.20
Togo	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Turkey	T £ 1.25
Tunisia	65 M
Uganda	EAs 0.25
UAR	PT 5.—
Uruguay	P 20.—
USA	$ 0.20
USSR	Rbl. 0.10
Venezuela	B 0.60
Yugoslavia	Din. 1.—
Zambia	11 d